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G. BAILEY, *Washington, D. C.*

WASHINGTON, D. C.

For the National Era.

REVELLING.

BY GAIL HAMILTON.

Come to my Christmas feast,
  I have spread you noble cheer;
The scarlet holly hath lent her glow,
  And the fragrant oil burns clear.
Valor, and Beauty, and Love,
  Gather around my board.
I wait in my old, ancestral hall,
  And the blood-red wine is poured.
I am Lord of the revel to-night,
  Crown ye the brimming bowl!
Let mirth, and laughter, and dance, and song,
  Rouse up the drooping soul.

Aha! I hear. You have come at my call;
There's a sweep of robes in the oaken hall;
Nay, before you enter, a sense of perfume
Floats heavily into the empty room.
Aha! little sister, thrice welcome to-night,
'Tis many a year since you passed from my sight.
Rest, at last, in the vacant chair,
Which many a year has waited there.
Methinks your cheek is a thought too white,
And your blue, mild eyes have a saddened light.
O sweet little sister, how gaily we played
Beneath the balm gilead's flickering shade.
  I can see the gleam of your twinkling feet
    In the soft dense orchard grass—
  And the clover droops its purple head,
    Dew-laden, as you pass—
  Again from my side you dart away,
    And defy me to follow after—
  Again from the heaps of new-mown hay
    Steals up your smothered laughter.
  Or, a tip-toe you stand by the garden wall,
    Where the morning shadows linger,
  Dimpling such dainty, resisting lips,
    With the tip of a rosy finger.
Is it a robin, or, is it the breeze,
Rustling up there in the apple trees?
Was it a fairy you watched so long,
  With wistful, peering eyes,
In the morning glory's crimson cup,
Ere the sun had gathered its incense up
  For his worship in the skies?
O dear little sister! the day is gone by—
  I think I remember you still and white—
I think all the sunshine paled out of your eye,
  Yet you are here to-night.
Was it not true, this pretty ring
  Of yellow silken hair,
I clipped from that low-lying head,
  With tender, heedless care?
Surely the prescient hand of Death
  I blessed in after times,
That led your stainless soul beyond
  The shadow of my crimes.
Crimes! Crimes! Who speaks that word?
  Who dares at banquet of mine?
O raise, little sister, your goblet of gold,
  I pledge you in Chian wine.

What statelier step, what queenlier form? *A lady of the land!*
Right royal greeting is thy meed, and seat at my right hand.
Ha! Stay! I know the eyes that glow beneath that matchless brow;
I know the smile on those dear lips—my mother! it is thou!
O noble name! and nobly worn alike through woe and weal.
Here, mother, as a little child, low at thy feet I kneel—
I pray thee lay upon my head thy tender hand once more—
I pray thee press upon my cheek the mother's kiss of yore.
Dear love, that for my childish pain could find a quick relief—
Dear heart, rejoicing in my joy, and saddened in my grief.
O mother's eyes, why gaze so long upon my upturned face?
O mother's smile on mother's lips, why did you leave no trace?
Turn, turn away that mournful look; it rends my secret soul!
Relentless, o'er my shrinking heart, the waves of memory roll.
There is a sharper pang than death's—a woe that brings no tears,
But graves the brow with deeper lines than patriarchal years
O mother, did my cruel hand work thus upon thy youth?
O mother, did my madness bring such guerdon to thy truth?
I hear, as in a troubled dream, the winds of autumn rave—
The restless whirl of withered leaves above a new-made grave.
I thought a shadow hid the sun forever from my sight.
O happy that it was a dream, since you are here to-night.
That I may deem it was a dream, you being here to-night.

Ring out the stirring song!
  Pour forth the rosy wine!
I will to-night all hearts be light.
  To-night, to-night is mine.

Beautiful, beautiful shining one,
Robed in the light of a softened sun,
Gliding hither with noiseless tread,
Who bows not before thee is ill-bested.
Lo! thus I welcome thee, peerless guest,
Crowning with garlands the Queen of the Feast!
Nay, not to my throne, not by my side—
Come to my arms—my long-lost bride!
Lay thy head on my yearning breast,
And calm the pulse of its wild unrest.
Methinks, my darling, your lips are chill.
Your heart against mine is strangely still.
It used to throb at my downward look,
And I read your face as a luminous book—
That face is calmer and whiter now
Than when you whispered your marriage vow.
Then it was hushed from your fear's excess,
But I was trembling with tenderness.
O Love, that day seems very far,
Distantly glowing, a tremulous star,
Bitter, ay, bitter the years have been,
The pitiless years that rolled between.
Why did that glory depart so soon?
Who quenched the light of your fair young June?
Heart of my heart, life of my life,
Here I behold you, beautiful wife;
Yet I thought I witnessed you, day by day,
Fade like the roses of summer away.
  I thought you went down to the silent dust—
    Ah, me! the woe!
  I thought you went up to the heaven of heavens,
    Long ago.
Did the heart you should always have reigned within
Open its portals to deadly sin?
Did the demon that lurks in the red wine's glow
Nerve my arm for a murderous blow?
Silent, serene, you are standing there,
And yet, O God! I can almost swear,
Could frenzy itself such measure deal,
I saw the gleam of the flashing steel!
  O fearful gleam! O hideous dream!
    O flashing, fearful light!
  O blest in that it was a dream,
    Since you are here to-night.
  That I may deem it was a dream,
    You being here to-night.

  Avaunt! ye Phantoms of the Brain,
    Avaunt! nor mock my soul;
  To-night, to-night, my heart is light,
    I crown the brimming bowl.
  Sweet friends, for you, the tried and true,
    I pour the purple flood—
  Ho! menials, slaves! Ho! hellish race!
  Who hath wrought me this foul disgrace?
    Wine! wine!—It is blood!

———

  Gone—gone—gone—
    The mirth and the music of life;
  Valor, and Beauty, and Love;
    Sister, and Mother, and Wife.
  No sound but the clanking of iron chains,
    With which my jailors have bound me;
  No sight but the gloom of the prison walls
    Which hopelessly close around me

  Far away by the sounding sea,
    In my old ancestral home,
  A lonely watcher is waiting for one
    Who nevermore shall come.
  I know in what window o'erlooking the sea
    A single light burns dim—
  In vain, in vain. It hath glimmered long;
  But my prison walls are high and strong,
    And Death is the warder grim.

  O lonely watcher, quench that light
    That gleams on the ocean wave!
  Ere another moon rounds full and white,
  The earth shall witness a doleful sight—
    You have no power to save;
  And I, the heir of a noble name,
  Last of a house of princely fame,
  Freed from my burden of sin and shame,
    Shall rest in a nameless grave.

LIFE IN ASIA MINOR.

LETTER FROM MARY IRVING.

SIVAS, *September* 29, 1857.

To the Editor of the National Era:

So little is known beyond the ocean of life in these interior cities of Asia Minor, that some notes from this high table-land may serve to instruct as well as to amuse your readers.

This city of Sivas, seated among environing hills, on a plateau some four thousand feet above the level of the sea, enjoys a fine, dry, bracing atmosphere, and most pleasantly-tempered summer heat. The winters are long, blustering, and cold; but their discomforts are little heeded by the well-inured natives, who, shutting themselves within walls of stone, mud, and mortar, two or three feet thick, wrapping themselves in furs and woollens, and enveloping their heads in clouds of fragrant smoke, pass their days in a manner, however unintellectual, most agreeable to themselves. The poor little children suffer most, as they are often left to run, with bare, purple feet, over the uncovered stone floors. This mode of treatment, like that of the ancient Spartans, kills all the weak, and tends to strengthen those strong enough to live through it. So that, although most of the children whom we meet are healthful and ruddy, it is not uncommon to find that their parents have buried more than the number still surviving.

There are three routes from Tocat to Sivas—a narrow mountain road, impassable in winter, from the snows; a wider summer road, impassable in spring, from the melting of those snows, which swell the unbridged rivers; and a more accommodating, but longer pathway, which will probably be the guide to the projected railway. Along the first named of these highways we took our "winding way," one clouded morning of August. The ascent was quite steep for some hundreds of feet, until we reached the rim of the hill-basin which closely shuts in the city of Tocat. Then, pausing to look down on the red roofs and brown walls in their emerald setting of flourishing vineyards, we waved farewell to them for a time, and pressed forward, though under a pouring rain. Before many hours, we were *in* as well as *under* the clouds, while crossing a ridge of Tschumlâ Bel Dagh, (Pine Ridge.) The view from this mountain is ordinarily a very pleasant one, but was limited, in our case, to a few yards beyond the heads of our horses. Pine trees everywhere loomed through the mist, though *by no means* such pine trees as our Western forests can show. Sweet wild flowers—the clematis, the harebell, and hundreds that have neither name nor notice in Wood's Botany—peeped up from road-side and hill-top.

Nine hours' steady riding brought us to the mud-built village of Gharkin, our half-way house. This hamlet, the abode of shepherds and cattle-tenders, stands on a high elevation at the foot of Yeldiz Dagh, (Star Mountain,) a beautiful peak, probably of volcanic origin, which shoots up like a pyramid into the sky, and commands a view of the far-away Black Sea. The natives have a curious story about the rising of the sun, as beheld from this point of observation, quite in keeping with their general geographical ideas. They say the sun comes to the surface of the sea, and gives one bound to disengage himself from the waters; but the latter are too strong for him, and sweep him downward. A second time he struggles skyward, again to be overwhelmed. Apollo, grown desperate, at length gathers all his strength for a third leap, which carries him clear of the waves, to the height of *nearly a yard* above the horizon!

A fact far more interesting than this fancy, (based upon some freak of refraction,) is the following: On the summit are found, say the natives, near a fine spring of water, the remains of an ancient, strong stone fort. Now, Strabo describes such a mountain as this, with a never-failing spring at its summit, and says that here was one of the firmest strongholds of old King Mithridates. We cast longing looks toward the towering peak, but had no time then to go and verify the reports.

We found in the village a hut for our accommodation, stable and all under one mud roof, as usual. Going down into the room, which was more than half under ground, lighted dimly by two holes near the roof, we kindled a bright fire of pine knots, brought from the mountains, and rested from our day's labors. First, however, it was necessary to exclude what little light came in from the world without, by fastening bits of newspapers over the rude windows aforesaid, at which one curious phiz after another was being framed in fast succession.

But alas for our anticipations of pleasant rest! They were doomed to such a realization as too often haunts the tired traveller seeking *sleep in these vermin-infested nooks!* So, *with moonlight* we prepared for a fresh start. Early though it was, the thousands of sheep and cattle about the village, watched by their grim dog-guardians, had already began to browse the dry, coarse grass.

We fell into the shadow of the hills that skirt the river Halys, after the sun arose, and proceeded very pleasantly for a time. Soon, however, we forsook the region of streams and trees, and came upon a wide, dreary plain, which might have passed for an Illinois prairie, but for its utter destitution of flowers or green grass. Some straggling spires of grass had indeed found root there, and served partly to bind together the caked soil, which everywhere yawned in wide seams; but their greenness had long ago withered up under the summer suns. The parched, desert-like land acted as a reflector to the sun's rays, and rendered the heat almost intolerable. At the verge of this plain we came upon a curious tract of some acres in extent, covered by what seems to have been a shower of small stones, strongly suggestive of the dragon's teeth sown by Cadmus.

Leaving this "Arabia Deserta" and "Arabia Petræa" in miniature, we descended abruptly a ledge of white limestone, two hundred feet in height, and, after another hour's riding along a road diversified by neither tree nor shrub, came in sight of this city, the capital of our "Pachalik." Its cool, bluish-green adorning of willows and Lombardy poplars never looked more grateful to weary eyes than to ours, after that horseback ride of fifty-four miles. Spread out upon the plain, with its white minarets and its mud-colored buildings, mostly surmounted by grass grown roofs, it realized, far better than Tocat, the ideal of an Oriental city, formed in childhood from the pictures in "Peter Parley's Geography."

Sivas is strictly, and of necessity, a commercial city; for its summers are too short and cool for the cultivation of most agricultural products. Scarcely any fruit trees are found hardy enough to bud and bloom here. Only wheat and barley—the chief subsistence of man and of beast—are thickly sown upon the wide plain surrounding the city. From some one of the environing hills, this plain looks like a many-colored map—a Germany in miniature—with its fenceless patches of crops in various stages of progress, intersected by ditches dug for the purpose of irrigation. In consequence of this state of things, three-fourths of the fifty thousand inhabitants here live by the business of buying and selling. The "bazaars" are quite extensive and complicated.

Having a desire to venture where no woman had yet been known to venture—perhaps also influenced slightly by a remnant of the passion for "shopping," so characteristic of our American sisterhood—we one day undertook the tour of these bazaars. We had less to fear, from the fact that, although these (unlike the bazaars of Smyrna and Constantinople) are only frequented by men, still the inhabitants of Sivas are far more polite than those of many sister cities to foreigners innovating on their long-established customs.

From the narrow street, we passed into what seemed a still narrower street, arched over with stone, and lined on each side by small nooks, just high enough for a man to crouch comfortably in. In each of these booths sat a cross-legged, turbaned, or fez crowned shop-keeper, puffing his chibouque, or shouting in altercation with some customer. Behind each is stored his merchandise, compactly arranged, on a few shelves. Screaming and smoking, however, gave place to staring, as soon as we made our appearance. Even the sheet-enveloped females, who, ghost-like, waddle about the streets, are excluded from these cavern-like arches; so that a civil degree of wonder at our appearance was most pardonable. Crowds of boys gathered about us, as we stopped to examine the fabrics of a civil Armenian who had bespoken our custom. The stout cane and energetic "Haidee!" (Begone!) of our watchful escort, could scarcely secure to us elbow room; though curiosity did not once pass into incivility, as has often been the case in other cities. And no wonder. What would the boys of New York say to a Turkish woman, who, wrapped in her usual street costume—a dingy sheet, leaving only the eyes visible—should attempt to promenade the Bowery?

Having made our selection, we stood patiently waiting for our native attendant to "cut the price," as bargaining is here termed—an operation akin to that *sometimes* witnessed in cities more civilized. A much higher price than that expected is always demanded at first; and as the buyer, in his turn, is sure to set his mark far too low, a war of words, often long and loud, ensues; until a compromise having been effected, both parties subside into quiet enjoyment of their pipes.

In the present case, however, the altercation was shortened by our attendant's insisting, that as we were "Franks," and "truth-tellers," and withal "exceeding wise," it would be of no use to name to us an unreasonably great sum. So the bargaining proceeded somewhat in the following strain;

Shopkeeper.—"What do I know? These ladies are wise to discern the truly excellent cloth; it is not that of a common price! If I take six piastres the endezé, I do but give the cloth!"

Attendant.—"Six piastres! Do you think to beguile eyes that have looked on the stuffs of a far-off country? Four and a half, now, is a price to sound in one's ears!"

Shopkeeper.—"Inch-Allah! Am I not making you a present? Five and a half!"

Attendant.—"Is that a price for Franks? *Five;* and not a para over!"

Shopkeeper, (*indifferently.*)—"Eh! The will of God be done!" And he motioned to the boy at his side to measure off the material.

From this cloth bazaar we passed into another range, wholly lined with shoe shops, resplendent in red and yellow morocco boots, slippers, and sandals, of various sizes, but of the same shape, unwieldy and inconvenient. Onward and inward we went, hither and thither, in this seemingly subterranean labyrinth—now by a range of tailors' dens; now past a glittering assortment of beads and trinkets; now through a pipe bazaar; and now through one of native crockery—until at last, our eyes and feet being wearied, and our hearts satisfied with the spectacle we had seen and had *been*, we hastened out again into daylight.

So much for *city* life here—now for a glimpse of the country.

Fancying that we should enjoy a little more freedom than can be found in these crowded cities, we concluded to seek "change of air" for a time. Though we have neither "Saratoga" nor the "White Mountains" in our vicinity, we have a warm spring in a romantic hill-gorge, some nine miles away. True, there was no "Congress Hall" nor "Glen House" near by, but we had a tent, and decided to try the patriarchal fashion of living for a week or more.

The ride thither on horseback was thought rather a long one for baby, the least important member of the party. So he, with his mamma, was snugly packed among matresses and cushions, with other tent-hold furniture, on the boards of a native "araba" (wagon.) These arabas have only two wheels, and are drawn by oxen or by buffaloes; the latter graced our "family coach." These animals, the most awkward and laggard of all beasts of burden, are very unlike the bison of America which commonly bears the same name.

As we set forth in the early morning sunlight, we presented a most picturesque yet ludicrous appearance — the many-humped beasts, swaying and toiling along under the clumsy goad of their full-trowsered driver; the araba, garnished on all corners with *hanging* baskets and bundles, and crowned with its most precious freight. Over the heads of the latter towered high in air (unnoticed until after we had started) a *green cross*, being no other than the up-turned handle of baby's basket carriage, an indispensable accompaniment of his small rosy self, which had been fastened at the front of the load. This "green-cross banner" made much merriment for us who rode leisurely behind. Yet we were glad one by one to enlist under it, as our horses grew restive at being condemned to the paces and the society of buffaloes. Six slow hours did we creep along plain and hill-side, to the forlorn music of our creaking wooden wheels, enlivened occasionally by baby's shriller protest against this novel kind of cradle and of lullaby.

At last we reached the desired glen. It lies between two halves of a range of hills evidently cleft by some convulsion of Nature. In many places the severed sides are as regular as though cut by the sword of a giant; and one might imagine the spot to have been a play-ground for the giant's young family, from the quantity of boulders and large rocks which lie tumbled about here and there, in most unlooked-for places and positions.

From the few willow trees which irregularly fringed a merry mill-stream, we chose the tallest, under which to plant our tent-pole. Within and about the octagonal walls of cloth we "set up housekeeping" in the most concise and primitive of styles. Our kitchen was the "shadow of a great rock" on the other side of the brook; which latter was bridged with a board, for the convenience of those who did not care to jump across it. Our stable, a tree-circuit adjoining the rock. Our parlor, dining room "and all," was partly within and partly without the tent-door, and included the whole area overshadowed by our "household tree." Here we spread our table—a provision chest, with the lid turned back—and ate our daily bread in freedom from care and thankfulness of spirit. From the small villages not far away, fresh eggs, goats' milk, and "kimâk," (a sort of cream,) were brought to us every morning; for other necessaries of life we were dependent on the city.

We carried pen, pencils, paper, and books, to our rural retreat, promising ourselves a treat in the way of sketching, writing, and reading, together. But we found the society of the rocks and streams far more tempting than that of our own thoughts or the thoughts of others. So we gave up our days to idle rambling or riding, or yet more idle dreaming, under this blue, soft sky of Asia. Flocks of goats or other animals often dotted the hills around us. Often, too, at sunset, we saw some herdsman standing upon a precipice hundreds of feet above us, to call the cattle home; or heard the shepherd, with his rude reed-pipe, wiling his lambs along the venturous hill-paths. If we had begun to fancy ourselves in Arcady, however, such fancies would have been dissipated by any one glimpse of the squalid, ragged, unshorn beings who sometimes stopped to gaze at us, as they wandered by with the droves of animals to which they seemed scarcely superior. Oh! for some wand to touch the souls latent in these animalized human forms, that they might spring to life and activity, like the dry bones in the prophet's vision. Whose hand but the hand of the Mightiest can do it!

Our Congress Spring bubbled up in a narrower part of the hill-gorge, and was spread out into a "havoose" (reservoir.) We went regularly to drink of its waters, nauseous enough to prove relationship to its cousin on another continent. Iron, sulphur, and magnesia, have been found among the constituents of this water, besides other properties of less note. The water, which is slightly warm, flows down to mingle with the colder water of the brook beneath, and coats the rocks in its course with a fine red tint. Its virtues are greatly esteemed by the natives, who bring their sick to bathe in the "havoose."

A little further on, the gorge narrows so suddenly, that not space enough even for a horse-track is left beside the tumbling brook, that makes its its wild music far down in the hiding shadows of the hill-sides, here only a few feet asunder. Suddenly the gorge terminates; the regular ledges break into confused ridges, and recede to the right and left. We stand, looking down into a beautiful, willow-dotted valley, waving with wheat-fields, and encircled on all sides by hills, but hills of a very different character from those which tower and gloom behind us. All is greenness, grace, and beauty, before; all is wildness and waste behind. The very horizon line, though still a hill line is a far different thing. We christened this spot after the "Happy Valley" in Rasselas.

Fair weather and our mode of life fitted together finely. But on the last days of our allotted time the skies began to frown. Cold winds shook our frail roof, and colder showers here and there leaked though. Baby, though bundled to the chin, and kept a close prisoner in the cloth cell, caught a terrible cold. Our frames were shivering, and our spirits shared the chill. It was hard to give up this newly-found liberty; but the attractions of house walls at length proved superior, and we bade adieu for that time to "tent life in Turkey."

Mounted on horses somewhat fleeter of pace than our former slow team of buffaloes, we hastened home. (I will add, for the benefit of all the mammas among my readers, that "baby," bound to a pillow, and presented with the end of the bridle-rein, performed the journey with great credit to himself.) A magnificent thunder cloud canopied our little company, but was magnanimous enough only to display its lightnings for our benefit, reserving the full torrent of its rain-drops until we were once again safely housed. Apropos of lightning—I wish some philosopher would explain how it is that so many accidents from that cause occur in America, while here, in a country destitute of lightning rods, and presenting here and there many a tall minaret and solitary tree as a mark for the electric fluid, a stroke from the heavens is a thing almost unheard of.

The house looked uncommonly ample in its proportions, as it opened its doors to receive us; and we suddenly and unanimously came to the conclusion that *our* days were better, after all, than the "days of old." Think of a life-time under a tent! The days (rainy days excepted) might pass delightfully enough, if one were willing to undergo a perpetual browning process. But, the nights! Why, in those few days, our slumbers had been disturbed by more entomological investigations than some of us had ever before attempted!—so many "bugs" with unknown names, crawling lizards, intrusive field mice, spiders seeking shelter! Glad enough were we to lie down and sleep for once, again, without danger of such company. Baby, shouting to the forgotten echoes of the great hall, was himself again at once.

But, even while I am writing, come to us tidings of the worse than savage—worse than comprehensible—scenes being enacted in India. The soul sickens and turns away from even an attempt to realize such horrors! Oh, is it not a blessing, that while India is thus being convulsed with the throes of Mohammedan fanaticism, (for all our accounts go to prove the movement one Mussulman rather than Hindoo—fanatical rather than patriotic,) we, in the heart of a country for ages the seat of Mohammedanism, with no outward defences around us, widely scattered, and few as we are, are yet thus free to come and go from city to country, and from village to village? The religion of Mecca, like that of Rome, is the same in all ages and all lands, and knows no quarter where limited by neither power nor policy. Superstition and falsehood, once firmly rooted in the hearts of nations, seldom quit their hold without a fierce struggle. It will yet probably come to this land, in spite of "Hatti Sheriffs," or any other concessions of the Government to religious liberty. Let us pray the Ruler of Nations so to overrule the present rising in the East, that no tempting precedent be given to a similar surge of fanaticism in other lands. Truly *we*, of all others, have reason to cry, "God help the English in India!" Not because we believe their conduct gives no cause—perhaps great cause—for criticism, but because, in spite of all this, we are not anxious to see the Indies nor the world lapse into a state seven fold more horrible than barbarism in its normal state. If the dominant nation *has* deeply erred, it is according to the law which awards retribution in this world to nations, that it be meanwhile punished. But the punishment is too terrible to think upon! Well may every other Government, instead of casting a stone at the suffering, tremble for its own turn, when, like Jefferson, it remembers "that God is just!"

Yours, as ever, MARY IRVING.

LIVINGSTONE'S EARLY LIFE.

The following passages, from Dr. Livingstone's work on Africa, will be read with particular interest by those who would know the secret of his wonderful power to endure hardships and overcome obstacles:

The earliest recollection of my mother recalls a picture so often seen among the Scottish poor—that of the anxious housewife striving to make both ends meet. At the age of ten, I was put into the factory as a "piecer," to aid by my earnings in lessening her anxiety. With a part of my first week's wages, I purchased Ruddiman's "Rudiments of Latin," and pursued the study of that language for many years afterward, with unabated ardor, at an evening school, which met between the hours of eight and ten. The dictionary part of my labors was followed up till twelve o'clock, or later, if my mother did not interfere by jumping up and snatching the books out of my hands. I had to be back in the factory by six in the morning, and continue my work, with intervals for breakfast and dinner, till eight o'clock at night. I read in this way many of the classical authors, and knew Virgil and Horace better at sixteen than I do now.

My reading while at work was carried on by placing the book on a portion of the spinning-jenny, so that I could catch sentence after sentence as I passed at my work; I thus kept up a pretty constant study, undisturbed by the roar of the machinery. To this part of my education I owe my present power of completely abstracting the mind from surrounding noises, so as to read and write with perfect comfort amid the play of children, or near the dancing and songs of savages. The toil of cotton-spinning, to which I was promoted in my nineteenth year, was excessively severe on a slim, loose-jointed lad, but it was well paid for; and it enabled me to support myself while attending medical and Greek classes in Glasgow in winter, as also the divinity lectures of Dr. Wardlaw, by working with my hands in summer. I never received a farthing of aid from any one, and should have accomplished my project of going to China as a medical missionary, in the course of time, by my own efforts, had not some friends advised my joining the London Missionary Society, on account of its perfectly unsectarian character. It "sends neither Episcopacy, nor Presbyterianism, nor Independency, but the gospel of Christ, to the heathen." This exactly agreed with my ideas of what a missionary society ought to do; but it was not without a pang that I offered myself, for it was not quite agreeable to one accustomed to work his own way, to become in a measure dependent on others; and I would not have been much put about, though my offer had been rejected.

Looking back now on that life of toil, I cannot but feel thankful that it formed such a material part of my early education; and, were it possible, I should like to begin life over again in the same lowly style, and to pass through the same hardy training.

Having finished the medical curriculum, and presented a thesis on a subject which required the use of the stethoscope for its diagnosis, I unwittingly procured for myself an examination rather more severe and prolonged than usual among examining bodies. The reason was, that between me and the examiners a slight difference of opinion existed, as to whether this instrument could do what was asserted. The wiser plan would have been to have had no opinion of my own. However, I was admitted a Licentiate of Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons. It was with unfeigned delight I became a member of a profession which is pre-eminently devoted to practical benevolence, and which with unwearied energy pursues from age to age its endeavors to lessen human woe.

But though now qualified for my original plan, the opium war was then raging, and it was deemed inexpedient for me to proceed to China. I had fondly hoped to have gained access to that then closed empire by means of the healing art; but there being no prospect of an early peace with the Chinese, and as another inviting field was opening out through the labors of Mr. Moffat, I was induced to turn my thoughts to Africa; and after a more extended course of theological training in England than I had enjoyed in Glasgow, I embarked for Africa in 1840, and, after a voyage of three months, reached Cape Town. Spending but a short time there, I started for the interior by going round to Algoa Bay, and soon proceeded inland, and have spent the following sixteen years of my life, namely, from 1840 to 1856, in medical and missionary labors there, without cost to the inhabitants.

LIFE IN PARIS.

PARIS, *December* 3, 1857.

Close of the Hunts at Compiègne—The Meeting of the Legislative Body—Mr. Dupin, Attorney General—The Money Crisis—A Deplorable Accident at the Citadel of Vincennes—Madame de Wilhorst, of New York City—Curious Statistics—A Letter of Madame de Maintenon—Living in Paris—An Example of the Extravagance of Ladies of the Present Day.

To the Editor of the National Era:

We are without political news of moment. The time of the meeting of the International Congress is not yet made known; and until it is, things must remain *in statu quo.*

Emperor Napoleon has closed the hunts at Compiègne for this season, and has returned to the Tuilleries.

The legislative body met on the 28th ultimo, and is now regularly at work.

Monsieur Dupin, President of the National Assembly of the last Republic, and executor of the will of Louis Philippe, has accepted from the hands of the Emperor the office of Attorney General, to the great astonishment of the public. Monsieur Dupin is seventy-five years of age, and possessed of riches. But such is the inconsistency of politicians.

The money crisis seems to have subsided in France. In Berlin and Hamburg the failures are numerous, and it is feared that some of the first houses of those two places will yet have to suspend. Russia, alone, seems to be free from that epidemic; which is very natural, since she has but little or no commerce.

On Sunday morning, the 30th ultimo, a deplorable accident took place at the citadel of Vincennes. The interior of the butressed entrance tower, dating as far back as 1333—the only part of the old fortress remaining *intact*—suddenly fell in with a tremendous crash, burying some twenty soldiers on guard, and several others confined in a room above, used as a military-correction room. Of those twenty-two, three made their escape, and one was rescued unhurt, after remaining five hours under the ruins. The Emperor, on hearing of the melancholy catastrophe, went to the spot to visit the survivors, and left a sum of money with the commander of the citadel, to be distributed among those who had labored, with indefatigable zeal, to release their companions in arms.

Madame de Wilhorst, from New York city, well known to your readers, made her first appearance on the Parisian boards as the sprightly widow of Donizetti—"Don Pasquale." She was most favorably received by the audience; and her rich and energetic voice, good school, and fine acting, called forth repeated applause, in which many of her countrymen present took a lively part. It is reported here that her husband has inherited a large fortune, making them quite independent of the emoluments of the profession, and that her love for the art alone induced her to go on the stage as an amateur. We take the following from the *Courrier de Paris:*

"Madame de Wilhorst was very well received. She has school, and is distinguished in personal appearance, but her voice is not faultless. When compared, however, with the vocalists of the present day, Madame de Wilhorst would be justified in saying, as did the Abbé Morellet—'*Je me dédaigne quand je me regarde, mais je me prise fort quand je me compare*'"

La Presse recently published some curious statistical facts in regard to Paris, showing that the comforts of life are enjoyed only by a very small number of the inhabitants of this great metropolis. He states:

1. There are 385,242 families in Paris, of which 219,000 occupy lodgings consisting of two rooms, for which each family pays a yearly rent of 25 dollars; 57,000 families pay from 30 to 50 dollars rent; 57,000 families from 50 to 80 dollars a year; 12,000 families from 80 to 100 dollars. The remaining 40,000 families pay over 100 dollars a year, and there are only 5,302 who pay over 500 dollars a year.

2. There are about 100,000 paupers inscribed, and about 300,000 receive alms from public institutions.

3. There are 342,520 working people of both sexes in Paris.

4. The population of Paris consumes one-tenth of the entire production of France. A Parisian annually consumes as much meat as ten inhabitants of some of the departments.

5. The amount of the revenue of the Parisians is estimated at about four hundred millions of dollars, and is obtained from three principal sources; two hundred millions of dollars through commerce and industry. The Government annually spends one hundred millions of dollars in Paris. One hundred millions of dollars is derived from a floating population of about sixty thousand strangers.

The time has passed when an income of a few thousand dollars was a sufficient sum to live in style, keep a carriage and horses, and a score of servants. Madame de Maintenon, in a letter dated 1678, addressed to her brother, Count d'Aubigné, made an estimate of daily expenses for himself and his young wife, three female servants, four liveried servants, two coachmen, and a valet de chambre; "Fifteen pounds of meat, at five cents a pound—in all, three francs fifteen sous; two pieces of roast, two francs ten sous; wood, two francs ten sous; bread, one franc ten sous; wine, two francs ten sous; fruit, one franc ten sous; candles, eight sous; wax candles, ten sous—in all, fourteen francs thirteen sous a day, (about three dollars.) For house rent, two hundred dollars. Calculating the whole expense, it would not amount to over two thousand dollars a year; a sum scarcely sufficient for the maintenance of a very small family and one servant at the present prices of provisions. Everything has increased so enormously in price, that it is incomprehensible to me how the laboring classes exist at all, at the present rate of the necessaries of life.

The mode of living here, however, is certainly very different from that in the United States. Several families live in one house, each occupying one story. The ground floor is generally used for stores or shops, over which comes a half story, called the *entre sole*, with low ceilings. Over the *entre sole* is the *belle étage*, or first floor, then the second, third, and so on up to the *mansardes*, (attic;) over them are the *tabalièrres*, or servants' rooms, with horizontal windows opening like a snuff-box. An *apartment*, all on one floor, consists of a dining-room, saloon, one, two, or more bed-rooms, and kitchen. The number of bed-rooms regulates the rent, and it is generally calculated that an additional bed-room increases the rent one or two thousand francs, according to the situation; for instance, a small, unfurnished apartment, with two or three bed-rooms, in the neighborhood of the Champs Elysées, rents for from $500 to $800, according to the story, which in the centre of the city, near the Boulevarts, would bring from $800 to a $1,000, and in the tradesmen quarter $250. Furnished apartments, of the same size and situation, vary from $1,000 to $2,000 a year. Whole houses, called hotels, are rare, and rent for from $3,000 to $6,000, according to their position, magnitude, and decorations. Single rooms, furnished, in hotels, cost from one to two dollars a day, with attendance, but with board.

Servants are plenty; but faithful and good cooks are nearly as scarce as elsewhere, though much is said about the aptitude of the French in the culinary art.

A regular *cordon bleu*, a gentleman of the pot, is a matter of luxury, and their salaries vary from 1,500 to 5,000 francs a year, and the wealthy only can enjoy the luxury of such a rare artist.

A good woman cook gets fifty francs a month, and attends only to her kitchen. A tolerable cook, who does all the house work, gets from thirty-five to forty francs a month. A chambermaid, from thirty to forty francs a month. Men servants, from fifty to sixty francs a month, board included. The servants neither fetch water, fuel, nor do they scrub. Washing is universally done out of the house. The water-carrier receives from one to two dollars per month. The frotteur, or floor-waxer, gets from ten to fifteen cents per room. Wood is sold by the pound; two hundred pounds of oak wood cost one dollar and a quarter. One hundred pounds of charcoal costs one dollar and sixty cents. Cooking is generally done with the latter, and the kitchen ranges are properly constructed for its use. Grates are almost unknown, and stoves are but little used; the fire-places being of the most primitive construction, they throw out but little heat.

Meats are exceedingly dear; they average twenty cents a pound. A pair of fine chickens, from two to two and a half dollars. Eggs, two and three cents apiece. Butter varies from thirty to fifty cents a pound. A dish of vegetables for four persons costs about fifteen cents. Lard, twenty-four cents a pound, and but little used in the culinary department. Lamp oil, eighteen cents a pound. Sperm candles, thirty-two cents a pound; sugar, about twenty cents a pound; coffee, forty cents a pound; tea, one dollar and sixty cents a pound; bread, five and six cents a pound, according to quality. Washing is estimated by the piece, according to the size and style of ornaments, averaging somewhat less than in the United States.

A common seamstress gets thirty or forty cents, with three meals, a day. A carriage and horses costs about twelve hundred dollars a year; arrangements can be made with livery stables, to furnish a fine carriage with horses always at command, for the same amount.

Schooling for boys or girls averages, board included, from two to three hundred dollars a year. A good day school, about 500 francs a year. Music teachers, from seventy-five cents to two dollars a lesson. A good plain upright piano costs from $150 to $250.

It costs about $2,000 to furnish a small *apartment* neatly and comfortably. A small family of four persons, with modest habits, can live on $3,000; out of which sum, however, little can be extracted for amusements. Theatres are expensive—one seat at the grand opera costs nearly two dollars; in the smaller theatres, from $1 to $1.50. The expenses for dress are great; a modest style alone requires a considerable outlay. Leaders of fashion spend from $10,000 to $20,000 a year for their toilets; a few hundred dollars outlay a year for that item does not admit of any great pretensions to elegance in dress. It requires a very large fortune to live in as much style as some of the old nobility, rich bankers, and speculators; and it is ridiculous for our republicans with small means to attempt to vie with those colossal fortunes, the incomes of which are larger than their capitals. The foregoing items will enable your readers to make a fair estimate of the cost of living simply in Paris, without pretending to enjoy the gayeties of a Paris season.

The Parisians, like other townspeople, fly from the city in the early part of May, to visit the country and watering places, to return late in the fall. Such excursions are very costly, and double the expense of living. But for those who desire to spend some months in the country, every facility is afforded in the neighborhood of Paris, where country houses are to be rented for a few months, comfortably and even elegantly furnished.

The following is an account of a trousseau exhibited at one of the first lingères of the *Place Vendome*, and ordered by the young Countess de Castellane, who was lately married to Prince Frederic de Ridziwill, a Prussian officer, and is a striking example of the many follies of extravagance committed by ladies of the present day. The young Princess is a daughter of the late Marquis de Castellane, who died Peer of France in 1847; her mother was a Princess de Talleyrand Perigord. The Princess was married at Sagan, in Silesia, at the house of her grand aunt, the Duchess Dorothée de Sagan, born Princess de Courlande.

Among the remarkable things to be seen in that profusion of elegant lingerie, linen, richly embroidered and inlaid with the finest Valenciennes laces; there were five dozen pocket handkerchiefs, (if we may still denominate those elegant little squares, with a plain centre of batiste, scarce large enough to cover the tip end of the nose, by so vulgar a name,) attracted general attention and admiration. They were mostly of the finest linen cambric, elaborately embroidered with every variety of lace stitch, and trimmed with laces that must have fallen from the hands of some unknown fairy. The twelve first cost two hundred dollars apiece; another dozen, one hundred dollars; and so on, down to twenty dollars apiece. The marking of the arms alone cost sixty dollars apiece. The coat of arms of the house of Castellane, interwoven with those of the house of Ridziwill, surmounted by a Prince's crown, was embroidered with a flexible gold thread, not to be injured by washing.

The magnificent Cashmere shawl, one of the seven in the trousseau, representing all the colors, is of Turkish fabric, embroidered with gold and turquoise.

LOCALIZING THE SLAVERY QUESTION AND SECURING PEACE.

In the debate on the 22d, in the Senate, which followed the feeble effort of Dr. Fitch to bolster up the Lecompton usurpation, Mr. Douglas, in strong language, showed the operation of the President's policy, in localizing the Slavery Question and securing peace:

"But we are told we must force the Lecompton Constitution down the throats of the people for the sake of peace; for the sake of localizing the quarrel. How is that to be done? By passing an act of Congress forcing a Constitution on the people of Kansas, against the will of that people! What next? When you find the stubborn, factious majority resisting the Government that you have imposed on them, the President will be called upon to use the army and the navy to put down insurrection; and inasmuch as this Lecompton faction is only composed of perhaps one tenth or one twentieth of the whole people, and there is not a man of them who dares stay there a day without the United States army to protect him, we should have a special message from the President, recommending an increase of the army, and the calling out of volunteers to march to Kansas to put down the insurrection, and maintain the Government which you force on them at the point of the beyonet. That is the mode in which you are going to localize the Kansas quarrel—by calling troops from Virginia and from Wisconsin, from Illinois and from South Carolina, from Massachusetts and from Mississippi, and stationing those volunteers around the city of Lecompton, to protect the Governor whom you impose upon that people against their will! Then I suppose there will be perfect peace and harmony among them all. You will restore peace in that way, and localize the Kansas difficulty! No, sir. The moment you impose a Constitution on that people against their remonstrance and protest, you have nationalized this difficulty, and pledged yourselves to maintain that Government at the point of the bayonet, and with all the power at your command. You have legalized civil war instead of localizing the Kansas quarrel. These are my convictions. I believe that such will be the consequences, if we proceed in this mad career of forcing a Constitution on a people against their will. I hope I may be mistaken, and that such consequences will not result; but, while such are my convictions, I must be permitted to express them. If my doing so brings down assaults on me, from whatever quarter, high or low, from my own section or an opposite section, I must repel those assaults; but I do not choose to go into any crimination or recrimination in regard to consistency on former phases of this question. I am willing that my consistency shall be judged of by the public. I think my course is pretty well known, and I am willing that the people shall judge of it. If the course of the Senator from Indiana is equally well known, let the people judge of it by that knowledge. If it is not as well known, I have no desire, no disposition, to hunt up old speeches and old records and old letters, to show his inconsistency. Consistency has very little to do with this question. The great point is, is it right to force a Constitution upon a people against their will? Am I not right in my opposition to that act of power and oppression? I would rather argue that question than go into any controversies with political friends or even political opponents. I would prefer that they should consider me so humble an individual that my history of fifteen years is not necessary to be discussed, inasmuch as during the whole fifteen years I have found them loud in praise of my course as to the political iniquities which they now propose to bring in judgment against me.

"But, sir, I ask no mercy in relation to this matter. I will not provoke controversy with anybody. I shall not shrink from the avowal of my opinions and the vindication of my character, whenever I choose to do it. I may not reply to all. It may be an object to worry out my strength by these constant attacks from day to day. Whenever I find it failing, I will reserve myself, and then come back and take a raking fire at the whole group. [Laughter.] But whenever I shall feel inclined, I will repel the blow at the time it is struck."

THIRTY-FIFTH CONGRESS,

FIRST SESSION.

Tuesday, December 22, 1857.

SENATE.

Mr. Wilson introduced a bill to secure to actual settlers the alternate sections of the public lands received in grants to the States for railroads.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the President's annual message.

Mr. Fitch remarked, that if the election took place in Kansas yesterday, Congressional action on the subject would soon be required; that is, assuming that there were no frauds which would vitiate that election. In expressing his views on the question, he desired that the decision of the people of the Territory whether to admit or to exclude Slavery *should not* be supposed to influence his opinions; and he therefore wished to speak on the subject in advance of any possible knowledge here of the character of the proceedings at the election.

He would remark, in advance, that while he should feel bound to comment on some of the views expressed by the Senator immediately before him, [Mr. Douglas,] he did not design to read him out of the party; but he would say, that a man might, by his own voluntary act, either by promoting discord in the party, or by some other means, place himself beyond the pale of the party, as such were put to the necessity of reading persons out of their organization. If, however, there were any men in the Democratic party who wished to take a position outside of the party, or who attempted to foment discord in the party in return for some fancied grievance in time past, they would do well to remember the fate of every such attempt that has ever been made, from the days of Burr to those of Van Buren.

Mr. Fitch was in favor of admitting Kansas with whatever Constitution she might present here, provided it was republican in form. The Convention had the power to submit the Constitution or withhold it, and were only responsible to the people of Kansas for the manner in which they exercised that right. He desired to adopt the course productive of the least evil to the greatest number.

Mr. Douglas replied. If differing from the President was "faction," that Senator had double that amount of faction with himself. He had not become the mere servile tool of any President, so as to feel himself bound to take every recommendation without examining to see whether it met his approbation or not. As to harmony in the Democratic party, he had only to say, if the Democratic Senators and the President would stand by the Cincinnati platform, there would be harmony between them all and himself. "Call it faction—call it what you please," said he, "I intend to stand by the Nebraska bill; to stand by the Cincinnati platform; to stand by the organization and principles of the party; and I defy opposition, from whatever quarter it comes."

The Senate, after an executive session, adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House went into committee on the Senate Treasury note bill.

Mr. Grow opposed the sending forth of irredeemable paper currency—there being nothing in the Treasury to redeem the issue, it would add to the evils which now prevail. He favored a loan, which would bring forth $20,000,000 of coin now in secret recesses, unemployed and waiting a safe investment.

Mr. Smith of Va., Mr. Adrain, and Mr. J. Glancy Jones, severally advocated the bill.

Mr. Morris, of Pa., looked upon this as an attempt to return to the policy with which the Government commenced, namely, a national currency. He was in favor of a national bank, with such restrictions as were proposed by General Jackson. He rejoiced that the Government has acknowledged its duty to supply a national currency, and was glad that the President had adopted one of the principles in the old Whig platform.

Various amendments were debated, and finally the Committee rose.

The House passed the Senate's Treasury note bill without any amendment. The vote stood—yeas 118, nays 86.

The House also passed the Senate's joint resolution providing for an adjournment of Congress from Thursday next to the 4th of January.

The House then adjourned.

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Wednesday, December 23, 1857.

SENATE.

Various branches of the President's message were appropriately referred.

Mr. Simmons gave notice of his intention to introduce a lower valuation bill.

Mr. Stuart, after an elaborate examination of the whole question, said it was not necessary to rely upon an analysis of the Lecompton Constitution to detect the fraudulent design of its framers. These latter had openly avowed and assigned as their reason for not submitting the Constitution, that the people would have voted it down, and hence the necessity of the plot contrived to fasten it upon them against their will. The plan was bold, but it was not ingenious. It sets the popular will at defiance, but in a manner too preposterous to admit the hope of success. For himself, at least, he would give no vote in Congress towards consummating this gigantic fraud. He was asked to suspend his judgment, and await the issue of the election on the 21st instant. Why wait for that result, when it was placed in the hands of those who had devised the whole of this indefensible scheme? Would Southern Senators suspend *their* opinions upon the result of an election in Kansas, to be conducted by Gen. Lane and men whom he might select and appoint? Why, then, expect of him to repose confidence in Mr. Calhoun and his confederates?

And why this indecent haste to hurry Kansas into the Union? Is it to "localize" the Slavery agitation? That agitation he verily believed would be intensified by the admission of Kansas under this odious instrument. So far from being "localized," it would in all probability be "nationalized" by that act. What if this Constitution be recognised by Congress, and the people of Kansas refuse to obey the officers elected under it? It would then be the duty of the Federal Government to put down with the army of the United States such an insurrection against the "legal authorities;" and, if strife arose in Kansas under such circumstances, would Iowa and Mississippi, Massachusetts and South Carolina remain indifferent spectators of the civil war? It was idle, therefore, to talk of giving peace to Kansas or to the country upon any other principles or conditions than those of eternal right and justice. Peace can come only by giving an opportunity for the voice of the majority in Kansas to make itself distinctly heard. Beneath it all, partisan and sectional clamor would be hushed.

The speaker closed by describing the Lecompton Constitution as the most monstrous fraud ever undertaken under the forms of law. In a Government like ours, frauds upon popular liberty could be effected only under color of law, and therefore became doubly dangerous. As a further illustration of the grasping spirit which seemed to animate the members of the Lecompton Convention the stipulations of the "ordinance" were cited, and pronounced unjust and unreasonable beyond all former example. In claiming "the unquestioned right to tax the public lands in Kansas," they claimed what Congress had never yet granted, and which, in view of the claim now set up as "unquestioned," would require some specific action in preservation of the right of eminent domain thus explicitly denied to the Federal Government.

Mr. Broderick, of California, in a few remarks, expressed his concurrence with Mr. Douglas and Mr. Stuart in their opposition to the Lecompton Constitution; but, unlike them, he held the President and the Administration mainly responsible for the pending complication of the Kansas question, as well as for the popular outbreak that might result from it. He was surprised that the President should come before Congress with the declaration in his message that the election for delegates to the late Convention had been fairly held, when there was reason to know that Gov. Walker had communicated to him, before his message was written, the fact that no registry of voters had been made in nineteen counties of the Territory. And he was further surprised that the Slavery question should be deemed so prominent, when, as it was generally understood in Kansas and in the country, that question had been virtually decided at the last October election, in which the Free State candidate for Delegate to Congress [Mr. Parrott] had been chosen by a large majority over Mr. Ransom, the Democratic nominee, and that, too, although the latter received more than the Pro-Slavery vote in that Territory because the candidate of the National Democracy.

He regretted to differ with any of his party, for he was a strong party man, and had labored earnestly in behalf of Mr. Buchanan's election. Nor could he be suspected of "Free soilism," as he had been opposed to the patrons of that political faith from the days of the Wilmot Proviso to the present time. As it was, however, he must obey his honest convictions of duty, and hold the President to the responsibility assumed with regard to the Lecompton Constitution. In view of the tyranny attempted to be exercised by the members of the late Convention, he wondered at the forbearance of the people of Kansas. If they had proceeded to acts of the grossest insult and violence against the men who thus sought to oppress them, it would deserve to afford as little matter for regret as surprise. He desired, for the present, merely to announce the opinion which would govern his course, with the view of at once placing himself "right on the record."

The Senate then adjourned until the 4th day of January.

HOUSE.

Mr. Warren rose to a question of privilege, and offered the preamble and resolution in regard to Utah which was published several days ago.

Mr. Warren said that this was a case which the country and every honest man desired to be investigated. Members were sitting here with a Delegate from a Territory which was not only nominally but legally in open rebellion against the Government of the United States.

Mr. Banks said the fact that the preamble declares that a state of war exists, did not bring matters before the House as a question of privilege. He admitted that the conclusion affected the Delegate's rights, but the facts on which Mr. Warren based his conclusions did not affect his rights at all.

The Speaker remarked that the preamble might or might not be adopted by the House.

Mr. Bocock agreed that this was a question of privilege, but it would be for the House to say whether the reasons assigned should be admitted. He was not nor was the House prepared to assert that the facts charged constitute sufficient ground for the rejection of the Delegate.

The House cannot set up an inquisition of morals or religion. We cannot declare a State or Territory in a condition of normal rebellion; and that, therefore, its Representative is not entitled to be heard on this floor. A part of a State might be in rebellion, yet those who are true and loyal are entitled to representation. But we have no facts by which we can declare Utah in legal rebellion against the country. Where is the message of the President declaring that Utah is in a state of rebellion? It would do no harm to refer this resolution to the Committee on Territories for investigation.

Mr. Humphrey Marshall thought that, under all the circumstances of the case, the resolution should not be adopted. He stated his views at some length.

Mr. Davis, of Maryland, said that, according to his view of the Constitution, we are not entitled to assume that any State or Territory is in rebellion or war against the United States. There cannot be resistance by any legal authorities, but by certain evil-disposed persons. If the Delegate did not take part in the rebellion, he stands here as a Representative with rights equal to those of any other person. Punishment should not be visited on the innocent.

Mr. Banks said there was no one who would more readily enter into an investigation than himself, but the President had not informed the House that Utah is in a state of rebellion, but that Brigham Young had threatened it.

Mr. Warner insisted it was due to the country to make the investigation, and that no attempt had been made on his part to expel the Delegate without a hearing. By the proclamation of Brigham Young, Utah *is* in a state of rebellion.

Mr. Boyce remarked that no gentleman had less sympathy with the Mormons than he had; but, in his opinion, the inquiry proposed could not be entered upon without violating the principle of law, to confound the innocent with the guilty.

Mr. Colfax earnestly argued in favor of the resolution, and showed that the people of Utah are in rebellion.

Mr. Keitt moved that the resolution be laid upon the table; but the question was decided in the negative—yeas 72, nays 118.

The resolution was agreed to, and the preamble adopted by a vote of yeas 167, nays 77.

Mr. Faulkner, from the select committee,

made a report to provide for the accommodation of reporters and foreign ministers, and a ladies' gallery; that a room shall be set apart for a telegraph office; empowering the Doorkeeper to employ six additional messengers, and six laborers; and curtailing the classes of persons to be admitted to the floor. The report was adopted

The deaths of Messrs. Brenton and Lockhart, late of Indiana, were announced, and the House adjourned to the fourth of January.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1857.

THE LAST NUMBER OF THE VOLUME.

With this number, the *Era* closes its eleventh volume. How many of our subscribers, at this important juncture, intend to leave us? With how many shall we commence our twelfth volume?

THE NEW AMERICAN CYCLOPÆDIA.

We shall notice in our next number Appleton's New American Cyclopædia, the first number of which is just issued. It is published by subscription only.

A special agent of the Messrs. Appletons is now in this city, who will call on the citizens generally. Orders for him may be sent to Shillington's bookstore—where copies may be seen—and they will receive prompt attention.

CAPTURE OF WALKER, AND RETURN TO THE UNITID STATES.

In our news columns may be found an account of the capture of the "man of destiny," as our Southern friends like to style him, and his return to the United States. His career was cut short. The time has not yet come for Americanizing Central America.

This sudden catastrophe must afflict the Southern Propaganda. The President will soon find out that he has stirred up a hornet's nest. Perhaps the Commodore will appear to have displayed too much zeal.

At all events, the Administration must do something to assuage the bitterness of the disappointment of the fire-eaters. What of Cuba?

MR. BENTON AND THE SUPREME COURT.

Historical and Legal Examination of the Decision of the Supreme Court in the Dred Scott Case. By the Author of the Thirty Years' View. New York: D. Appleton & Co. For sale in Washington by J. Shillington.

We are indebted to Mr. Benton for a copy of this "Examination," which, although at one time arrested by a severe attack of sickness in the author, bears all the marks of his inexhaustible intellect, and is a triumphant refutation of the dicta of the Supreme Court, in regard to the "unconstitutionality of the Missouri Compromise, and the self-extension of the Federal Constitution to the Territories."

In an elaborate Introductory Note he sets forth at length his objections to the decision of the Court," not only because it was without jurisdiction and wrong in itself, but because it was political, pertaining to the policy of civil government of the Union, interfering with the administration of the affairs of the State."

The ground is taken and ably maintained that Congress holds its powers from the Constitution, must construe these powers for itself, is not bound by the decisions of the Supreme Court; and that this Tribunal has no right to attempt to decide political questions, "affecting Congress in its legislative capacity."

Congress ought to follow its own opinion, independently, as it did "in the case of the United States Bank, the Sedition Law," &c., "regardless of the Court's decision."

Mr. Buchanan appears to entertain quite a different view. He hailed the opinion of the Court in the case of the Missouri Compromise, although it assumed to set aside the views on which the Government had acted from the beginning of the Constitution, and would doubtless be pleased if the Court would settle for the Executive and Congress all questions on which they have to act. In other words, he would have Congress and the Executive look to the Court, not the Constitution, for the definition of their powers, swear allegiance to the Court, not the Constitution.

Mr. Benton next proceeds to his main work, the Examination of the Court's Opinion, under three heads:

1. As it concerns the power exercised by Congress over the original territory of the United States.

2. As it concerns the new territory acquired by the Louisiana Purchase.

3. As it respects the Missouri Compromise Act.

The great object is to show that Congress exercised, and rightfully, supreme authority over the Territories, both original and acquired; that it governed them independently of the Constitution, by virtue of sovereign and proprietary rights; that the question of admitting or prohibiting Slavery "never rose higher than a question of expediency;" and that all this continued to be the case, without distinction of men or parties, and with the universal concurrence of all the departments of the Government, legislative, executive, judiciary, State and Federal, from the legislative adoption of the Ordinance of 1787, in the year 1789, down to the abrogation of the Missouri Compromise in 1856.

We need not say with what energy the argument is presented, with what an array of facts and variety of illustrations it is enforced.

The author sees clearly the practical effect sought by the promulgation of the new doctrines, especially that of the "Self-Extension of the Constitution with Slavery to Territories"—the institution of Slavery instantly in all Territory, over all opposing laws and usages.

"That is the declared effect of the transmigration of the Constitution to free territory by the author of the doctrine; and great is the extent of country, either acquired or to be acquired, in which the doctrine is to have application. All New Mexico and California, at the time it was broached—all the Territories now had, wherever situated, and as much as can be added to them—these additions have already been considerable, and vast, and varied accessions are still expected. Arizonia has been acquired; fifty millions were obliged to Mexico for her northern half, to include Monterey and Saltillo; a next is now offered for Sonora and Sinoloa, down to Guayamas; Tehuantepec, Nicaragua, Panama, Darien, the Spanish part of San Domingo, Cuba, with islands on both sides of the tropical continent. Nor do we stop at the two Arizonias, thin coasts and islands as they are; but, circumscribing the homogeneous globe, we look wistfully at the Sandwich Islands, and on some germ in the Polynesian group; and plunging to the antipodes, pounce down upon Formosa in the Chinese sea. Such were the schemes of the last Administration, and must continue, should its policy continue. Over all these provinces, and islands, and ports, now free, our Constitution must spread, (if we acquire them, and the decision of the Supreme Court stands,) overriding and overruling all Anti-Slavery law in their respective limits, and planting African Slavery in its place, beyond the power of Congress or the people there to prevent it."

After this, we cannot suppose that the veteran author of this searching Examination, who sees so clearly the fearful consequences of these opinions of the Supreme Court, can bring himself to support in any way an Administration and a Party which have formally incorporated them into their creed, and pledged themselves to abide by them in their policy.

☞ The Editor of the *Era* will receive his friends, as usual, New Year's Day.

POLITICAL TRUTHS—RIGHT OF SELF-GOVERNMENT—POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY.

It is impossible to state the fundamental Truths of Political Science with mathematical exactness. Theorists who attempt this, and then undertake to reason accordingly, fall into inextricable difficulties.

The axiom of the Declaration of Independence, that "Governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed," needs careful interpretation to give it any practical value. Let us attempt to apply the Principle which seems so intelligibly enunciated to a State—for example, South Carolina. Who are the "governed?" Men, women, and children—white, black, and mulatto—free people and slaves. Does the Government of the State derive its "just powers" from the consent of all these classes? Literally, all are "governed"—but, as a matter of fact, we know that slaves, and colored people, and women, and children, are not included in that term: their consent is not asked to the endowment of the Government with any power; all that is necessary is, the consent of the free white males. But, here again we must resort to interpretation. Only free white males *over twenty-one* are meant. Why? By what law of nature is it, on what self-evident principle is it, that free white males of eighteen, nineteen, twenty, are excluded? And is the consent of *all* free white males over twenty-one necessary to secure a just power to the Government? No—otherwise there never could be any just Government. The consent of only a *majority* of them is required. Must the consent be formal or implied, preliminary or subsequent? The Declaration sayeth not.

Here then is a great Truth, as it is called, of the Declaration of Independence, stated in terms so inexact as to require a series of constructions to make it intelligible and fit for application. The proposition that "all Governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed," means, generally, that they derive their power from the consent of a majority of males over twenty-one, or exceptionally, as in the case of South Carolina and other slave States, from the consent of a majority of the free white males over twenty-one—the consent in both cases being either formal or implied.

This may answer as a convenient definition of a Principle, acted upon in this country, but it will not bear the test of rigid scrutiny. Suppose, for instance, the majority of free white males should endow the Government with power to prohibit religious worship except in one way, and to exact a certain religious belief as a test of eligibility to office, would it be a *just* power?

Every one sees that something more is necessary to constitute a just power in Government, than the consent of the governed—of the majority of males over twenty-one. *It must be in accordance with justice*—with the natural right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, as inherent in every human being. Right and wrong do not depend upon majorities or minorities. Neither a minority nor the whole of a community can invest Government with a *just* power to do *injustice*.

Another example of the inexactness with which Political Truths are stated, is to be found in the discussion of what is called "Sovereignty." "Sovereignty" means, supreme power. In its highest sense, it belongs to God alone. As defining powers existing in human conditions, it admits of various meanings. It is the highest power in a State—but there may be inferior Sovereignties. There is an absolute Sovereignty and a limited Sovereignty. That of the Czar is absolute, that of the Queen of England, limited. We do not call our President, Sovereign, and yet, officially, during his term of office, he wields more power than Queen Victoria. We do not style Congress, Sovereign; yet it is less amenable to public opinion than the British Parliament, which is often styled Sovereign. American politicians speak of the Sovereign People, although the People are the "governed," not the Government; and of the Sovereign States, although the Federal Constitution, and the Laws passed in pursuance thereof, are the supreme law of the land, "anything in the laws of the States to the contrary notwithstanding."

It is vain to attempt to confine the word Sovereignty to one thing, as Governor Walker does in his Letter to the President. Usage forbids it. So restricted a definition would lead to continual misunderstandings. Sovereignty resides alone in the People, says Mr. Walker—that is, in the People of each State: there is no other Sovereignty. And yet, it is only on rare occasions that this Sovereienty makes itself manifest, as, for example, in the creation, the ratification, or the amendment of a Constitution—never in the ordinary functions of Government, never in the administration.

Sovereignty resides in the People of each State, as the source of all political power. That is true; but the term is greatly expanded in popular acceptation. Each State—that is, the *Government* of each—being the *State organized*, is sovereign and independent in relation to other State Governments. The United States—that is, the Government, being the *States organized* for certain purposes, as one body, is free, sovereign, independent, in relation to all other Governments. The State Government, being supreme within its limits, is Sovereign. The Federal Government, being supreme within its limits, is Sovereign.

The People of each State, being the source of all power in either, are Sovereign, although they cannot act upon the humblest individual except through the limited Sovereignties derived from themselves. The citizen owes allegiance to the Government of his State and to the Government of the United States: to them he looks for protection—their laws he obeys: he does not acknowledge allegiance to "the People," or look to them for protection; and they do not enact the laws regulating his interests. Strange that the only American Sovereign should be so completely ignored by everybody, except the political theorist and the demagogue!

Southern dogmatists of a certain school claim that Sovereignty over the Territories resides alone in the People of the States—or, more precisely, in the People of each State. According to this, there are thirty-one distinct Sovereignties over our Territories, each possessing an equal right to govern them. When they acquired their Sovereignty, how they are to exercise it, how they are to decide, when conflicting in their views, we are not informed. The Constitution of a State defines what the State Government may do, and how it shall be done; the Constitution of the United States defines what the Federal Government may do, and how it shall be done; but we have no Constitution directing how the People of each State shall, as a Sovereign, exercise Sovereign functions over the Territories of the Union.

This Southern notion is too ridiculous for further comment.

Next, we have the theory that the people of a Territory possess Sovereignty, and, in the exercise of their Sovereign rights, have a right to determine their own institutions—a theory just as groundless as the one just noticed. The Sovereignty of the People of a Territory! When do they acquire it? At first, a hundred adventurers settle on a vast domain, acquired by the Government of the United States. Does Sovereignty reside in them? Does settlement invest them with a right to govern the hundreds of thousands of square miles of a Territory, of which they occupy a few thousand acres? They multiply; immigration adds to their numbers. Congress encloses them within certain boundaries—organizes them into a political community—gives them a Constitution—authorizes them to carry on the work of self-government to a certain extent—appoints them a Governor, a Secretary of State, an Attorney General, a Judiciary. Who exercises Sovereign right here—the people of a Territory, or Congress? Can they do more than they are authorized to do? Can they exercise a single power not granted by Congress? And has not the power been again and again reserved by Congress, to revise their laws, and to annul them, should it see proper? Are they Sovereign, then, *after* their Territorial organization? Where is the evidence? Brigham Young and his People, acting upon this assumption, are denounced as rebels; the House of Representatives, affirming that they are rebels, appoints a Committee to examine the right of their Delegate to hold his seat in that body; the President dispatches an army to put down the rebellion; and if the counsel of Senator Douglas be followed, the act organizing their organization as a Territory will be repealed!

Territorial Sovereignty! Squatter Sovereignty! Popular Sovereignty in Territories! What miserable mockery.

The men who deal most flippantly with these phrases, know that they mean nothing.

The plain truth is that which has always been acted upon, in a greater or less degree: The Sovereignty over the Territories of the Union resides in the Federal Government. The States ceded to the Congress of the Confederation the Northwest Territory; Congress accepted the cession, and provided an Ordinance, in the form of a Compact, for its government. The Congress of the Constitution, through that instrument expressly, became bound by the engagements of the old Congress, and, in pursuance of this obligation, at its first session passed an act recognising that ordinance, and giving it effect. The clause in the Constitution, authorizing it to pass all needful rules and regulations for the Territory or any other property of the United States, was clearly intended to apply to that Territory, but being general in its views, and required by the relations of the Federal Government to any Territory, would apply reasonably to any other Territory which might be acquired.

Whether the framers of the Constitution contemplated further Territorial acquisition, we do not know: certainly they did not grant power in express terms to acquire; although, in conferring on the President and the Senate power to make Treaties, it may be argued that they evidently conferred the power of Territorial acquisition. So, too, the same power might be incidental to the power of Congress to declare war. Conquests might be made, and conquests retained, as indemnity for wrong done, or security for peace.

By Treaty, Conquest, or Purchase, the *Federal Government* has acquired Territory—not the Sovereign People of each separate State; and the power to govern is plainly inseparable from the power to acquire and possess. Even were there no clause in the Constitution authorizing Congress to make all needful rules and regulations for the Territory or other property of the United States, the Federal Government, from the plain propriety and necessity of the case, must possess this right, as incident to its right to acquire. It alone is Sovereign over the Territories, and in the exercise of its rights, is limited by its discretion—not by the Constitution, for the Constitution is a form of Government for the States united, not Territories. Territories have no State rights.

The Federal Government may govern the Territories by a Governor and Council, or through a Governor, Legislature, and Judiciary. It may, if it see proper, withhold the power of self-government, or it may grant it. It may authorize the people of a Territory to form a State Constitution, or refuse them authority. It may ratify the form of a State Constitution formed by them, voluntarily, and receive them into the Union, on their petition, or refuse such ratification and petition; and until admitted into the Union as a State, the people of a Territory have no sovereignty, but are under the control of the Federal Government. The Government may do wrong—may act oppressively—but it must then be arraigned, not on constitutional grounds, but on grounds of reason and natural right. The people of a Territory have no right to resist under the Constitution, or in virtue of the Constitution, for it is not over them; it is not, as assumed by the Pro-Slavery majority of the Supreme Court, for Pro-Slavery purposes, extended to them. Their only right of resistance is, the great natural right of revolution.

We are at pains to make these views prominent, lest some of our readers be perplexed with the discussions which now seem to turn upon the question of Popular Sovereignty, and lose sight of the simple, clear, well-established principles held by the Republicans in common with the founders of our Constitution, concerning the relations of the Federal Government to Territories.

The doctrine that would place them under thirty-one distinct Sovereignties, would make all Territorial Government an impossibility.

The doctrine that claims for the people of a Territory, before or after Territorial organization, Sovereign rights, has no ground to rest upon—is inconsistent with the power always exercised by Congress over Territories, by the consent and co-operation of all parties—and cannot be carried out without encouraging them in rebellion.

The doctrine that the Federal Constitution is self-extended to the Territories is false, because that paper was made by the people of the United States, not Territories; for *States*, not Territories; applies to States, not Territories. If so extended, all Territories would at once rise to the rank and claims of States, and as such, be entitled, without act of Congress, to organize State Constitutions, form State Governments, and elect Representatives and Senators to Congress.

The only true doctrine is, that the Federal Government is Sovereign over Territories, has a right to govern them at its will, to keep them in a Territorial condition so long as it shall deem best, to prohibit in them any institution or practice which it may judge detrimental to the public welfare, to admit them as States, either by authorizing preliminary Conventions to form State Constitutions, or by ratifying the proceedings of Conventions held by the People, of their own motion.

How it shall exercise this large power, is a question of justice and expediency, not constitutional right. Taking the standard of natural right as the measure of the just powers of Government, the Federal Government ought not oppress these people, ought to protect their rights and promote their interests, ought to consult their will, so far as the general welfare will allow, ought to invest them, as far as may be done, without injury to the United States, with the power of self-government, ought, whenever they desire, and their condition justifies it, admit them as States. In regard specially to Kansas, it has done wrong, in repealing the act protecting the Territory against Slavery; in giving aid and countenance to attempts to force Slavery upon it; in recognising as a Legislative body, an assemblage of men elected through notorious fraud and violence; in bestowing patronage on the chief actors in this transaction; and in now attempting to bring Kansas into the Union with a Pro-Slavery Constitution; which it knows, and the whole country knows, is repudiated by four-fifths of its qualified voters. In all this, we do not say it has violated the Constitution, but it has trampled upon justice and natural right, and made itself an accomplice in oppression and fraud. It has abused its unquestioned Sovereignty over the Territory, by disregarding the will of the majority, by trampling upon the Democratic doctrine of the right of self-government, by a policy, subversive of the peace and order of the Territory, detrimental to the honor and dangerous to the Union of these States.

PRESIDENTIAL INTERVENTION AGAINST SLAVERY.

Mr. Douglas was severely censured by some Administration Senators, for insinuating that Washington influence would be brought to bear, to induce the Pro-Slavery men in Kansas to vote for the Constitution *without* Slavery, so as to embarrass him and his friends in their opposition to the Constitution.

The Washington correspondent of the Richmond (Va.) *Enquirer*, who seems to speak with authority concerning the acts and counsels of the Administration, in a letter to that paper dated December 21st, makes the following curious revelation:

"The President adheres firmly to the positions assumed in his annual message, and thinks Gov. Walker's pronunciamento will not entirely annihilate him. *If the Constitution should be stripped of the Slavery clause by the vote in Kansas to-day, and such Mr. Buchanan thinks will be the case, he is sanguine Congress will accept the Constitution and admit the State*—thus banishing from the halls of national legislation this apple of discord, this bone of contention, this fruitful source of agitation and sectional excitement.

"*I understand that Gen. Denver, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, was dispatched to Kansas, with special instructions to induce every Administration Democrat, whether Pro-Slavery or not, to vote against the Slavery clause of the Lecompton Constitution.* This was the only salvation for the Constitution; and if the Free State men refused to vote it out, the Pro-Slavery men would have it to do. Events transpiring, after Gen. Denver left here, induced the President to appoint him Secretary of the Territory of Kansas, in the place of Mr. Stanton, removed."

The correspondent who writes the foregoing is a warm supporter of the Administration, and is writing to the leading Administration paper of the South. We presume he knows whereof he affirms. If the statement be true, it furnishes an extraordinary illustration of the doctrine of Non-Intervention, so strongly insisted upon by the Administration; and it shows, too, the desperate shifts the President has resorted to for the purpose of maintaining an untenable pasition.

ANOTHER TEST.

"A Northern Democratic Editor" in Washington publishes "a card" in the *Union*, deprecating the severe strictures of Senator Douglas on the conduct of certain editors from the North, who, happening to be here, are sending home to their papers animadversions on his course. This particular editor avers his sincerity and purity, and sees not how Judge Douglas could complain, were adhesion to the policy of recognising the Lecompton Constitution made a party test. The Kansas-Nebraska act, he says, the moment it became an Administration measure, was made "*a test of straight-out Democracy.*" He continues:

"It was this test, however, that gave by turns every State in the North to the Black Republicans, and to the Senator himself a Black Republican colleague in the Senate. It was this test, though, that sifted the Democratic party, and gave it riddance of all the Anti-Slavery, Abolition elements that had given it so much trouble before; it purified the party, and in its results established the inalienable doctrine of Popular Sovereignty."

It will be observed that, in the spirit of a martyr, he seems to rejoice in the sufferings and reverses sustained by his Party in the cause of Slavery. True, that terrible test prostrated them in every free State, but it purified them of the taint of sympathy with Liberty! What more could be desired? Unfortunately, time has shown that the Party after all was not thoroughly purified—not yet made perfect through suffering for Slavery; and this "Northern Democratic editor" seems willing to subject it to another test, still more excruciating. Exact adhesion to the Lecompton Constitution; make it a test of Democratic orthodoxy, that the Party sustain the Administration in forcing the Constitution of a meager minority upon a vast majority, a Pro-Slavery Constitution hatched by fraud upon a Free State People—and then you will thoroughly cleanse the Party of the slightest Anti-Slavery taint; no man would be left in it who is not ready at all times to do precisely what the Slaveholding Oligarchy requires.

This "Northern Democratic Editor" has elevated ideas of Democracy.

THE PRESIDENT AND GOVERNOR WALKER.

The President, through the Secretary of State, accepts the resignation of Gov. Walker, but deems it improper to reply to the argument which accompanies it. On one point, however, he sees fit to comment.

"You state that the President has changed his policy in regard to Kansas. And why this allegation? Simply because the Convention of Kansas having, in the exercise of the right belonging to them, decided that they would not submit the whole Constitution to the people, although they have submitted the all-important and dangerous question of Slavery, which threatened to convulse the Union, and was alone prominent in the minds of the people throughout every State, he had not treated the submission of this momentous question as a mere nullity.

"Under these circumstances, it was his imperative duty, and this in strict conformity with previous instructions, to take care that a fair election should be held on this vital question, and thus give peace to the Union. Had he acted in any other manner merely because he preferred the submission of the Constitution generally to the people, his responsibility would have been of the gravest character."

Not so grave as is the responsibility which he now assumes, of attempting to force a Constitution upon the People of Kansas, in defiance of the principle of self-government, and at the hazard of civil war.

Mr. Buchanan may assume, if he please, that the Convention represented the People of Kansas, and that it has fairly submitted to the People the question of Slavery, but all the world knows better. Facts flatly contradict him. The Convention was not called by a Legislature representing the People of Kansas. It was not elected by the People of Kansas, four-fifths of whom did not vote—some of them because the officers appointed by the so-called Legislature would not register them; some because they would not recognise, even in appearance, the authority of that body. It was chosen by an aggregate vote of less than 2,000, not more than a fifth of the number of voters in the Territory. The President of the Convention, Mr. Calhoun himself, acknowledged that it represented only a minority. Nor did it submit the Question of Slavery fairly to the People. The question was, not whether Slavery should be authorized in the new State, or excluded, but whether *slaves might be imported into it.* That we do not misrepresent, is shown by the following extract from the Proclamation issued by J. Calhoun, President of the Convention, announcing the election to be held on the 21st, the provision therefor, and the question to be determined:

"Now, therefore, be it known to the people of Kansas Territory, that on the said 21st day of December, 1857, polls will be opened in the several election districts of said Territory, at which the actual *bona fide* white male inhabitants, resident in said Territory, on said day aforesaid, *shall vote for or against the future introduction of Slavery into said State of Kansas*, in the manner following, as required by said Constitution:

"The voting shall be by ballot, and those voting for Kansas as a slave State shall vote a ballot with the words 'Constitution with Slavery,' and those voting for Kansas to be a free State shall vote a ballot with the words 'Constitution with no Slavery.'"

"*The future introduction of Slavery*"—that was the question, and the only question submitted. For the existing Slavery there, the Constitution had provided that it should be perpetual!

But even that single question was not submitted fairly, for no man could vote yea or nay upon it, without voting at the same time *for* the Constitution. If a Pro-Slavery man, no matter if he hated the Constitution, he must vote for it, if he would make known his will in favor of the future introduction of Slavery.

The special pleading that might be excused in a pettifogger, does not become the Presidential office.

KANSAS—THE LEGISLATURE.

The following *resume* of the work accomplished by the Kansas Legislature, previous to its adjournment, is given by the correspondent of the *Tribune*:

"They repealed the law authorizing the Convention that framed the Lecompton Constitution; vetoed by Stanton—passed over his veto. They passed the militia law; vetoed by Stanton—passed over his veto. They elected officers under it. They provided for submitting the Lecompton Constitution to a fair vote of the people on the 4th of January; approved by Stanton. They passed a law to punish election frauds; approved by Stanton. They passed a joint resolution protesting against the Lecompton Constitution, setting forth the facts in connection with it, and, as the representatives and Governor of the Territory, demanded that Congress shall not admit Kansas as a State under it; signed by Stanton. They proposed a concurrent resolution, reaffirming the Topeka Constitution, declaring it to be the organic law for the future State, chosen as such by a majority of the people, and demanding admission under it as a State of the Union. This was placed in the shape of a concurrent resolution, to relieve Stanton from the necessity of signing it. Both of these sets of resolutions are to be sent by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Council to the President, and each presiding officer of Congress.

"The Legislature rejected the bill for electing delegates to a Constitutional Convention. They neglected or refused to take any steps for submitting the Topeka Constitution together with the Lecompton Constitution. They rejected the bill providing for electing officers under the Lecompton Constitution in January, to be the officers in case of the acceptance of said Constitution by Congress."

The Legislature of Kansas, at its special session, acted with prudence and energy.

The Militia Bill was necessary to save the Territory from being exposed through the remissness or sinister policy of the Governor, who, holding his appointment from Washington, might entertain views inconsistent with the interests of the People.

Their provision for submitting the Lecompton Constitution to a vote of the People on the 4th of January, will test the sense of the whole People in regard to that instrument, and when the returns shall be sent to Congress, the President may find reason to change his position.

The Legislature was undisturbed during its session. General Cass, in the Letter of Instructions to Mr. Denver, now Acting Governor, says:

"The Territorial Legislature doubtless convened on the 7th inst., and while it remains in session, its members are entitled to be secure and free in their deliberations. Its rightful action must also be respected. Should it authorize an election by the people for any purpose, this election should be held without interruption, no less than those authorized by the Convention. While the peace of the Territory is preserved and the freedom of election is secured, there need be no fear of disastrous consequences. * * * From whatever quarter it is attempted to interfere by violence with the election authorized by the Constitutional Convention, or which may be authorized by the Legislature, the attempt must be resisted, and the security of the elections maintained. The peaceable progress of these elections can obviously occasion no injury to any citizen of any party, because their results can have only their due weight under the Constitution and laws."

Mr. Denver is now exercising the functions of Governor. The disturbances at Fort Scott did not grow out of the elections, but out of feuds between the Free State and Pro-Slavery men. Judge Williams, through the *Union*, charges the blame upon the former, the correspondent of the St. Louis *Democrat*, upon the latter. Several lives were lost, on both sides, and United States troops were called out. The particulars have not yet reached us, but the accounts seem to be exaggerated.

MR. BRODERICK VERSUS THE PRESIDENT.

The California Senator, Mr. Broderick, on Wednesday of last week came out boldly against President Buchanan in his Kansas policy. When Democrats grow manly and outspoken, there is hope that the race of doughfaces may come to an end. Mr. Broderick spoke as follows:

"As I am the only Senator, I believe, on this side of the House who feels disposed, with the Senator from Illinois and the Senator from Michigan, to oppose the Lecompton Constitution, I should like, before the adjournment of the Senate to-day, to be heard for a very few minutes on this question.

"I have listened to the debate very attentively, and while I agree with the Senator from Illinois and the Senator from Michigan in most of what they have said, I disagree with them in regard to the President's connection with the question. When the President of the United States sent Gov. Walker and Secretary Stanton to Kansas, they found the people there in a state of insurrection, and, after a great deal of labor on the part of those gentlemen, they restored peace and quiet to Kansas. *I think the President of the United States and his Cabinet are alone responsible for the present outbreak in Kansas.* Governor Walker had returned to Washington before the President of the United States issued his message. He conversed with the President of the United States on the subject of Kansas. I understand that he told him that fifteen out of the thirty-four counties in Kansas were deprived of a voice in the election of delegates to the Lecompton Convention. If I understand this subject, and I hope I do, I think that the President of the United States is alone responsible for the present state of affairs in Kansas. It is the first time, I believe, in the history of this country, that a President of the United States ever stepped down from the exalted position he held, to attempt to *coerce the people into a base submission to the will of an illegalized body of men.* I have heard a great deal said about the question of Slavery being submitted to the people of Kansas.

"Why, sir, I consider that the question of Slavery was submitted to the people of Kansas at the October election in a more favorable aspect than it will ever be presented to them again. Mr. Ransom was nominated by the Democratic party for Congress, and if I had been a citizen of Kansas I should have voted for him. The Pro-Slavery men of Kansas had the advantage of presenting a man from a free State for Congress; for I understand, from very good authority, that Mr. Ransom is not a Pro-Slavery man. What was the result of that election? We find that Mr. Parrott, the Republican candidate for Congress, was returned by a majority of some 3,000. I consider that, since the people of Kansas had a chance to deliberate on the question of Slavery, and to express their views on it, at the election in October last, the question of Slavery was settled. I have been informed, by two Pro-Slavery gentlemen from Kansas, that the Slavery question was not discussed at all about the time this Convention was called to make a Constitution. They considered that it had been disposed of at the October election, and, for that reason, that it would never be agitated in the Territory again.

"I am very sorry that I am placed in the unfortunate position of disagreeing with my party on this question, for I believe that I rendered as much service in my way in the election of Mr. Buchanan as any gentleman on this floor. He was my choice before the Convention at Cincinnati met. I considered him the most available and the most conservative candidate that could be presented to the American people for election to the Presidency, and for that reason I supported him. I regret very much that I am compelled to differ with him on this question; but, sir, *I intend to hold him responsible for it.* I do not intend, because I am a member of the Democratic party, to permit the President of the United States, who has been elected by that party, to create civil war in Kansas. The only thing that has astonished me in this whole matter is the forbearance of the people of Kansas. If they had taken the delegates to the Lecompton Convention and flogged them, or cut their ears off, and driven them out of the country, I would have applauded them for the act. I have spoken for the purpose of placing myself right upon this question."

WASHINGTON ITEMS.

Just before its adjournment, the House of Representatives passed a resolution, providing new arrangements in the new Hall. They are as follows:

1. Assigning portions of the galleries for the use of the press, of foreign ministers, and a ladies' gallery.

2. Reserving certain lobbies and staircases for the use of the press and persons admitted to the floor.

3. Directing the superintendent to fit up the reporters' gallery with seats, desks, and conveniences for writing and taking notes.

4. Reserving the room in the rear of the reporters' gallery for a telegraph room and for reporters.

5. Directing the present document room to be fitted up for a cloak room for members.

6. Authorizing six additional assistant doorkeepers and assistant messengers, and six additional laborers.

7. Amending the 17th, 18th, and 19th rules, enumerating the persons privileged to the floor, the terms upon which reporters may be assigned seats, &c.

8. Allowing the committee further time to report on the matters referred to them.

It is understood that the arrangements for members of the press will be completed during the present recess of Congress.

Early in November, the sloop of war Dale, Commander McBlair, was lying at the mouth of the Congo river, when private information was obtained of the presence of an American slaver up the river. Lieut. T. Lee Walker, of the Dale, volunteered to lead an expedition, and in the launch, with a crew of 18 men, penetrated to Ponto da Lenha, thirty miles from the mouth of the river, surprised the slaver at her moorings, got her under weigh, navigated safely through the shoals of the Congo, and in thirty-six hours from the time of leaving had her at anchor under the guns of the Dale, with the captain and crew in confinement.

The prize proved to be the American barque W. G. Lewis, of 264 tons. She has been sent to the United States in command of Lieut. Kennard, late first lieutenant of the Dale, to whose position, as executive officer, Lieut. Walker now succeeds.

On the morning of Nov. 12th, one of the first cutter's crew of the Dale died, in five seconds, of sun stroke.

☞ George B. Butler, a distinguished New York politician in the ranks of the Democracy, is out in a strong letter against the Administration, for its advocacy of the Lecompton Constitution. In the same letter he declares it as his opinion that Slavery is not an evil, but a good; but he believes in giving the people of Kansas fair play.

Some of the letter-writers record rumors to the effect that the Administration is already so frightened at Mr. Douglas's movement in defence of Popular Sovereignty, that it will propose that Congress accept the Lecompton Constitution, with a Proviso carrying it to the people of Kansas for ratification or rejection.

Gen. Cass's Letter to Gov. Walker.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Mr. Secretary Cass has given the following reply to Gov. Walker's letter of resignation:

SIR: On Wednesday last I received your communication of the 15th inst., tendering your resignation as Governor of Kansas. This resignation is accompanied by a long argument on the affairs of the Territory generally, to which, you are well aware, it would be impossible for this Department to reply. If every officer of the Government who feels himself constrained to refuse obedience to the instructions of the President shall pursue this unusual course, and thus place on the files of the appropriate Department a criticism on the policy of the Administration, no person knows better than yourself to what consequences this might lead. They must either cause the charges and arguments against the President to be filed among the public archives of the country, without contradiction or reply, or it must spend the time which ought to devoted to the public service in controversies with subordinate officers who may disapprove of the President's policy.

Whilst duty therefore forbids me to enter into a controversial discussion with you, on the various topics embraced in your argument, it is proper that I should make a remark on a single point. You state that the President has changed his policy in regard to Kansas. And why this allegation? Simply because the Convention of Kansas have, in the exercise of the rights belonging to them, decided that they would not submit the whole Constitution to the people, although they had submitted the all-important and dangerous question of Slavery, which threatened to convulse the Union, and was alone prominent in the minds of the people throughout every State. He had not treated the submission of this question as a mere nullity. Under these circumstances, it was his imperative duty, and this in strict conformity with previous instructions, to take care that a fair election be held on this vital question, and thus give peace to the Union. Had he acted in any other manner, merely because he preferred the submission of the Constitution originally to the people, his responsibility would have been of the gravest character. He never intended or expressed the opinion that the Convention was bound to submit any portion of the Constitution to the people except the question of Slavery, much less that that portion would be invalid without such submission. Had he entertained such an opinion, this would have been in opposition to the numerous precedents which have occurred since the adoption of the Federal Constitution by the different States. The question of Slavery was the all-absorbing question, and you were sent to Kansas with the confidence of the President to carry out the principles of the Kansas-Nebraska act. With the question whether Kansas was to be a free or a slave State, you was not to interfere. You were to secure the people of Kansas a free and fair election, to decide the question for themselves. The President was therefore happy to learn, from your despatches to this Department, July 15th, that in all your speeches you had refrained from expressing any opinion as to whether it would be a slave or free State. I am instructed to inform you that your resignation of the office of Governor of Kansas has been accepted.

I am, sir, your obedient servant.

LEWIS CASS.

To Robert J. Walker, Washington.

The *Journal of Commerce* tells the following reply of a boy to his mother: "The father was of the *keep-your children at-a-distance* class, and the boy, wanting a new suit, very naturally asked the mother to intercede for him. 'Why don't you ask your father yourself, my son?' said the mother. 'Why, mother, I would ask him, only I don't feel well enough acquainted with him,' was the reply."

THE FIRE-EATERS UPON MR. DOUGLAS.

The Richmond *South* pours out the vials of its wrath upon Judge Douglas, for his opposition to the Lecompton fraud. It says:

"If Judge Douglas had been content with the delivery of a speech, no matter how obnoxious its sentiments, he might have hoped for some charity of construction and leniency of censure among the Democracy of the South; but surely he cannot expect us to tolerate an act of such declared and determined hostility as is revealed in his resistance to the action of the Lecompton Convention. Words may be forgotten, but for a blow there is no pardon. And what more mischievous blow against the South, the Administration, the Democracy, and the Union, could their most malignant enemy suggest, than is inflicted by Judge Douglas, when he employs all his power to prevent a settlement of the Kansas difficulty on the basis of the Lecompton Constitution? It is idle to argue that he only stands upon a point of expediency. He repudiates the suggestion himself as a reproachful imputation, and claims to contend for an essential principle. The President deems it of great importance to the success of his administration, that Kansas shall be admitted into the Union with the Lecompton Constitution. Senator Douglas exerts every energy of his nature to prevent that consummation."

The *South*, after interpreting the principle of the Kansas-Nebraska act "in their own way," proceeds to read Senator Douglas out of the Democratic party.

"The Democratic party affirm the right of the people of a Territory to develop their institutions 'in their own way,' free from all outside interference. Senator Douglas denies them the privilege of organizing a Government through the instrumentality of a representative Convention, and proposes to subject Kansas to restrictions, from which it is exempt by the express terms of the original act of Congress. After this statement, will anybody pretend that Senator Douglas is separated from the South, the Administration, and the Democratic party, by nothing more than an immaterial idea of expediency? He occupies a position of open and defiant antagonism to the South, the Administration, and the Democracy, on the one issue that overshadows every other question of public policy. He stands shoulder to shoulder with the Black Republican party of the North, on the one distinctive principle of their platform. He is an apostate from the faith, and should suffer the penalties of desertion."

We are anxious to know in what condition the Democratic party will be, when Douglas of Illinois, Forney of Pennsylvania, and Broderick of California, are scouted from its ranks. Every free State will be in the hands of the Republicans, or at least the enemies of the Slave Democracy. What will the "*South*" and its allies do then?

It is a little singular, that while such sheets as the *Star*, of this city, pour out denunciation upon the head of Senator Douglas, the *Richmond Enquirer*, an able and old defender of Slavery, and published in one of its strongholds, treats the Illinois Senator with marked courtesy and respect. It says:

"His former eminent services to the South demand that he should not be denounced, before ample time has been allowed for an examination of the position which he occupies. That Judge Douglas has for many years been the man upon whom the people of the South have relied, with perfect confidence, no one will deny. Gratitude for past services, respect for eminent talents, and sound policy, alike demand that the language of friendly remonstrance—nay, even expressions of affectionate entreaty, rather than of harsh denunciation—should be used towards our former benefactors. When men like Douglas make a false step, and we have reason to believe that they are tottering upon the brink of the abyss of political destruction, they should not be thrust prematurely over, and their fall greeted with execrations and abuse. Until, therefore, the clearest evidence is furnished us that Senator Douglas has become an avowed enemy of the Administration, and a foe to our rights, we shall not hold him up to our readers as an apostate and a Black Republican."

A Thrilling Adventure with the Mormons.

C. G. Langdon, formerly connected with the United States Surveyor's office in Utah, was engaged in his official duties at the time the United States Court was broken up, and witnessed the stampede of Uncle Sam's officers. Brigham Young having declared that no United States official should again set foot in the Valley, Langdon was prompted to visit Salt Lake City, and see what preparations the Mormons were making. He saw them casting cannon shot, and manufacturing grape and cannister in great abundance, and some fifty men making Colt's dragoon-size revolvers. He was detected, however, and "spotted" for destruction. He says:

"Accordingly, on the 25th day of July, when crossing the street, I was assailed by a party of ruffians, was knocked down, and most shamefully beaten with clubs and stones. I was literally cut and bruised and mangled all over my head, face, breast, hands, and arms. I was taken home unconscious, and had it not been for some emigrants there who interposed, I should have been brutally murdered in the streets, and without the least possible chance to defend myself.

"All was quiet until the night of the 27th of July. I was disturbed by loud rapping at the back door of the office, (I lived next door,) and also heard voices at the front door. I heard Mr. Wilson raise the window above, and ask what was wanted. He was ordered to come down and deliver himself up, under arrest, by the authority of Governor Brigham Young. He asked what charge they had against him. 'Come down, and we'll d—n soon show you,' was the reply.

"The next heard was the door being broken open, and the voice of Mr. W. in expostulation with them. The entreaties of his wife, begging for them to spare her husband, mingled with with their oaths and obscene expressions, rendered the scene perfectly heart-sickening. I lay almost powerless with the pain of my wounds and conflicting thoughts and emotions, until suddenly I was thoroughly aroused by hearing them beneath my window and at the back door. I told my wife not to make a noise, or even cry; she did not cry, but her last words were, 'For God's sake, George, fly! Go, go, if you can; I—I—cannot see you murdered! Oh, go! and I will do the best I can to detain them.'

I had time to put on a pair of pantaloons and one stocking, when without any ceremony the door was burst open, and a posse of midnight assassins entered below. I motioned to my wife to extinguish the light, which she did. They immediately made a rush for the stairs, expecting no doubt that I was preparing for fight, but I could not have killed a mouse then. I stopped and kissed my infant boy, (perhaps for the last time on earth,) then barely had time to leap from the window, and in doing so I cut my foot very badly. It seemed the Fates were against me. But suddenly the thought struck my mind, that if I could possibly make my escape, I might probably be the means of saving Wilson—thinking they dare not execute their bloody purpose on one alone, as the other would be too formidable a witness against them. For I thought of my wife and child—yes, I might yet live to rescue them from the blighting influence of their teachings—from a life of poverty, ignorance, and wretchedness. Thus, with renewed energy, I pursued my way through the corn fields and thickets, barefooted and bareheaded, and nearly nude; but at last I found a friend who relieved me, all that lay in his power, by giving me a pair of moccasins and an old hat. Thanks, my friend; may you never want relief.

I was hotly pursued several days. The next morning after I started for California, I had the satisfaction of seeing seven of my pursuers, mounted and armed to the teeth, pass me within twenty yards, while I was secreted behind a sage-bush. I could not refrain from a smile, even then, in my critical position, to see their knives and pistols hung to their belts, while I had not even a penknife.

I have not yet heard from Salt Lake, and do not know the fate of Wilson. I entertain but little fears for the safety of my wife and child. The Mormons seldom molest or harm a woman, except to coerce her into measures that are sometimes very disagreeable. I rely entirely on the well-known fortitude and firmness of my wife, and do not think I shall be disappointed.

The Review.

Life of Aaron Burr. By James Parton. New York: Mason Brothers. For sale by W. Ballantyne, Washington, D. C.

This is one of the most agreeably-written biographies of the year—in some respects, the best biography of Aaron Burr extant. It has the important advantage over that written by Mr. Davis, that it is condensed and abridged into one volume, though this contains nearly 700 pages. No book which we have lately seen is more interesting or more readable, and it will pretty surely acquire popularity. There is, as in most biographies, special pleading, and a strong inclination to touch lightly upon the dark side of Mr. Burr's character.

The North British Review. New York: Leonard Scott & Co. For sale by Taylor & Maury, Washington, D. C.

The November number of this able Review contains several articles of unusual interest. One, entitled "Slavery and the Slave States," will receive general attention this side the Atlantic. It is written with manifest ability, and by a person conversant with American institutions, which cannot be said of the author of a similar article in the July number of the *Westminster Quarterly.* A review of "Sir A. Alison's Histories," an article on "Luttrell's Diary," one on the "Memoirs of John Dalton," and another upon "Beranger," constituting the most readable portions of this number.

London Quarterly Review. Published and for sale as above.

The October number of this work contains the usual quantity and quality of matter. A sketchy paper upon "Cornwall," a review of that delightful book, "Tom Brown's School Days," articles upon "Communication With India," "Court of James I," "A Voyage to Iceland," &c., make up its contents.

A Physiological Cook Book. By Mrs. Horace Mann. Boston: Ticknor & Fields.

The authorship of this book will be sure to attract the notice of the general public. It should be a good one, coming from such a source—and, after an examination, we pronounce it such. To follow Mrs. Mann, however, in her receipts, one needs to keep a dairy, as she uses "cream" in everything. What are the denizens of cities to do, who see nothing but pale-blue milk the year round? Soda and saleratus are eschewed by Mrs. Mann, and every other substance which she considers to be hurtful.

The Golden Age of American Oratory. By Edward S. Packer. Boston: Whittemore, Miles, & Hall.

In this neat volume we have carefully-written and sometimes eloquent sketches of Clay, Webster, Fisher Ames, Choate, Everett, Pinckney, Chapin, Beecher, and Wendell Phillips. The style of the author is perspicuous and animated, and he has succeeded in making a very interesting book.

White Lies. Part IV. By Charles Reade. Boston: Ticknor & Fields.

We have noticed the previous parts of this story, and accorded to it the merit of being lively, witty, and interesting. The conclusion of the tale does not change our opinion of its character as previously expressed. Mr. Reade's stories are all animated and crowded with incident. Sometimes he is dandyish in style—or, in other words, affected, but he is never dull. This should cover a multitude of literary sins.

Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa. By David Livingstone, LL. D. New York: Harper & Brothers.

This volume has been anxiously looked for during the last three months, and has at last made its appearance as a reprint this side the Atlantic. The volume is issued in a quarto form, and contains over 700 pages and over 40 illustrations. It is, perhaps, *the* book of travels for the year. David Livingstone, the author of it, is a hero who ranks with Kane, Sir John Franklin, Mungo Park, and other illustrious discoverers. He tells his story modestly, in lovely language, but every page abounds with incident, and the reader is enchained till the bulky volume is finished.

Mr. Livingstone was a plain missionary, sent out from England to the wilds of Africa. It is a singular fact, that twelve of the sixteen years spent in the interior of Africa he was accompanied by his wife and young children—they together making the renowned discovery of Lake Ngami. Before, however, making his longest journeys, he sent his family to England. This occurred in 1850, he then expecting to join them there two years afterward, but did not till 1856. The journey from the Cape of Good Hope to Loando, on the West Coast, and the subsequent one thence across the African continent to the Eastern ocean, will carry his name to future generations as a resolute, self-possessed, and successful traveller. He was alone in these journeyings—that is, he was not accompanied by any white man—and, with prudence and an inventive *genius*, surmounted all the difficulties which lay in his path. He was often in the very jaws of death, but escaped, time after time, almost miraculously.

The chief merit of Mr. Livingstone's journeys may be his vast additions to the geographical knowledge of the world, but it is not the only merit. The example of such a man, the picture of such heroism as his, not only interests, but purifies and ennobles him who stops to look at it.

Portraits of My Marr'ed Friends. By Uncle Ben. New York: Appleton & Co.

"Uncle Ben" evidently has a prejudice against married people. His portraits of his married friends are not, upon the whole, pleasant to look at. There are bright exceptions—but not many. Uncle Ben should have married him a pretty, faithful, loving wife, and he would have written a somewhat different book, we are sure—if he had written any at all. Ten to one, he would have, in this event, been so happy as never to have written one!

The sketches in the volume are very well written, and will furnish amusement for a winter's evening.

The Atlantic Monthly. Boston: Phillips, Sampson, & Co.

The January number of the Atlantic may strike the reader at first to be a little heavy, but it is really an excellent specimen of the new monthly. A few of the articles are upon matters pertaining to the arts and sciences, but there is the usual assortment of spicy and readable papers. Among those which have pleased us most, we may mention a poem entitled "Catawba Wine," and another, entitled "The Wedding Veil," a fine historical sketch of Spartacus, full of interest and fire, another instalment of Dr. Holmes's breakfast-table talk, a spirited poem, "Tacking Off Shore," with the genuine smack of salt water in it," and a spirited and severe review of the President's Message. Altogether, it is a capital number.

Slavery in Kansas.

The *Charleston Mercury*, which represents a large number of Representatives and Senators in the present Congress, says, in its comments on the Kansas parts of the President's message:

"We differ, too, with the President, as to what is submitted to the vote of the people. We do not think that the question of Slavery or no Slavery is submitted to the vote of the People. Whether the clause in the Constitution is voted out or voted in, Slavery exists, and has a guarantee in the Constitution that it shall not be interfered with; whilst, if the Slavery party in Kansas can keep or get the majority of the Legislature, they may open wide the door for the immigration of slaves."

AFFAIRS IN KANSAS.

The St. Louis *Democrat* has later news from Kansas. Major Russell, the contractor, Captain Van Vleit, of the United States army, and George N. Sanders, passed Boonville, Missouri, on the 22d, on their way to Washington. They left Leavenworth on the 19th instant. Secretary Stanton was still acting as Governor, apparently with the approbation of his successor, General Denver. We extract from the *Democrat* as follows:

"The reported death of General Lane turns out to be altogether untrue. The mistake probably occurred from confounding the name of Mr. Latham, killed at Doniphan, with that of Lane.

"The trouble at Fort Scott, which is said to have resulted in the death of three men, was a local quarrel, not connected immediately with the election, although between Free State and Pro-Slavery men. The latter had sent to Missouri for assistance. A requisition was made on the 18th by Mr. Stanton on General Harney for two companies of dragoons, who were at once dispatched to the spot. General Lane also sent off two companies of Free State troops, (Territorial militia,) to look after the dragoons, and see that they did no harm.

"The Legislature was still in session. It had passed an act, submitting the Calhoun Constitution to a vote of the people of the Territory on the *fifth* of January, in three forms: 1st. Constitution with Slavery; 2d. Constitution without Slavery; 3d. Against the Constitution. A very stringent election law had been passed, providing against frauds, and authorizing judges of election to be appointed by the Governor and Speaker of the House. Provision had been made to have the names of all voters on the 21st taken down by committees at each precinct, so as to counteract and make manifest fraudulent returns.

"A good many Missourians were passing up the river, and going over the border to participate in the election.

"It was reported that Mr. Stanton had vetoed one or two bills, but that the Legislature had not insisted on passing them, although having the necessary majority.

"The Walker Democrats of the Territory had called a Mass Territorial Convention to meet on the 24th, to endorse his course, and recommend to Congress the passage of an enabling act. They would oppose the course of the Administration, as was evident from the tone of the primary meetings."

The Affray at Fort Scott.

Private advices has put the *Democrat* in possession of the following explanation of the late collision at Fort Scott:

"The smouldering hostility, so long pent up, is at last breaking out in the Territory, and the Pro-Slavery men seem determined to precipitate it on the people without regard to consequences. Fort Scott is the scene where the tragedy has opened. *During* the last court held at that point, twenty-three Free State men were indicted for rebellion, under the statutes of the bogus Legislature of 1856, which makes the crime punishable by death. Friends of the victims to this odious and bloody code wished to have further investigation of the case, which was denied them. They then requested to see the court records, and were refused. Determined not to be treated with such arrant injustice, they claimed their right, and, a squabble ensuing, they were set upon by the Pro-Slavery attaches of the court, and a mob of their partisans. In turn, the Free State men rallied to the support of their friends, and compelled the assailants to surrender. The captives were then permitted to leave uninjured. Since that time, they have crossed the line into Missouri, where they have raised a force, and now threaten to wreak vengeance when they get to the Territory. The volunteers in this new foray have principally gone from Little Osage, Papinville, and Nevada, but the general sentiment of the communities do not endorse the inroad. You may expect to hear other news as soon as their future proceedings are known."

The New Militia Law.

On the 14th inst., a law passed both branches of the Legislature, providing for the organization of the Territorial militia.

This law repealed all the militia laws enacted by the last Legislature. The new organization takes place under the supervision of a board of officers, consisting of one Major General, eight Brigadier Generals, one Adjutant General, one Inspector General, one Quartermaster General, one Commissary General, and one Surgeon General. These officers are elected by the Legislature. The Governor of the Territory is a member of the board, and is Commander-in chief of the militia. This military board has the power to organize, equip, drill, and put into serviceable shape, the militia of the Territory. A majority of the board are empowered to call out the militia in any emergency, and to act independent of the Commander-in-chief.

This militia bill, after passing both branches of the Legislature, was sent to Secretary Stanton for his approval. After considering the matter two days, Mr. Stanton returned the following answer:

To the House of Representatives of the Territory of Kansas:

GENTLEMEN: Herewith I return the bill entitled "An act to organize and regulate the militia of the Territory of Kansas," which was presented yesterday for my approval, but from which I am compelled to withhold my sanction.

No necessity seems to me to demand a reorganization of the militia at the present time; and such a measure is not, in my judgment, legitimately connected with the general purpose for which the Legislative Assembly is now convened. Moreover, I am deeply impressed with the importance of avoiding everything which, at this critical juncture of affairs, might serve to irritate the minds of the people, and arouse apprehensions, such as might naturally be engendered by any military movement whatever.

Looking to the provisions of the bill itself, I dissent from that part of it which provides for the election of general officers by the two Houses of the Legislative Assembly. If any change should be made from the present mode of appointment, I am of opinion that the officers in question should be elected by the people, or by those who are liable to be called into service under the law.

But the most fatal objection to the proposed law, and that which is entirely conclusive to my mind, is to be found in the seventh section, which authorizes "a majority of the military board to call out the militia in any emergency."

By the organic act the Governor of the Territory is made commander-in-chief of the militia, and is charged with the duty of seeing the laws faithfully executed. The proposed law would virtually depose him from his position, and would place him in the power of a board, composed of the general officers of the militia, including himself it is true, but in which he might at any time be overruled by the majority.

In my judgment, such a law would be in direct conflict with the organic act, and would therefore be null and void. If, however, it might be considered legally valid, it would be hostile to the acknowledged principles of civil liberty, which require the subordination of the military to the civil power. To confer upon a majority of the general officers of the militia, the power to judge of the occasion when the military force of the Territory should be called into action, would be to establish a military despotism of the most dangerous and pernicious character.

With these objections I return the bill in question to the House in which it originated.

FRED. P. STANTON.

Lecompton, December 15, 1857.

Secretary Stanton's veto was expected by all parties. The Legislature, upon receiving his refusal to sanction it, passed the bill over the veto by a two-thirds vote. Both branches of the Legislature then went into joint session for the purpose of electing the officers composing the military board. A committee of six was appointed to report a ticket. The following was adopted:

Major General, J. H. Lane; Frist Brigadier J. G. Losee; second, S. B. Jamison; third, Asa Hall; fourth, Sam. Walker; fifth, C. M. McDaniel; sixth, John H. Whistler; seventh, G. S. Hillyer; eighth, F. G. Cleveland; Adjutant General, C. Chadwick; Inspector General, J. Hill; Quartermaster General, Hiram Hosmer; Commissary General, L. W. Eldridge; Surgeon General, Dr. S. B. Prentiss.

It is expected that the Legislature will adjourn on the 16th. What has been accomplished may be summed up as follows: The Legislature repealed the law by which the Constitutional Convention at Lecompton was created. They enacted a militia law, which was vetoed by Stanton, and passed over his veto. Provision was made for a fair submission of the Lecompton Constitution to a vote of the people on the 4th of January next. This was approved by Stanton. A law was passed to punish election frauds; approved by Stanton.

Another Veto by Governor Stanton.

We extract the subjoined proceedings of the Territorial Legislature from the correspondence of the Cincinnati *Gazette*:

Lecompton, Dec. 14.—Lecompton, usually dull and stagnant, wears an appearance of some activity to-day. Many pre-emptors are here, attending to their business in the land office. The political excitement, too, has attracted a good many strangers here. Improvements go on slowly in the town. The first story of the Territorial Capitol is not yet completed, and no work has been done on it for several months. The edifice will probably never be completed. At all events, Lecompton cannot long continue to be the capital of Kansas. None of the Pro Slavery members of the Legislature are present at this session. They do not now number more than four or five souls, all told. The militia law, passed on Saturday, is to take effect immediately.

A series of strong resolutions, protesting against the admission of Kansas by Congress under the Lecompton Constitution, have passed the Council this afternoon, and will probably go through the House to-night.

The line of policy marked out by the Free State Convention in Lawrence on the 2d inst. is not likely to be fully carried out at this session of the Legislature. The Topeka Constitution will not be submitted to the people side by side with Lecompton Constitution. Governor Stanton conceives that such action would not be in accordance with the promises made to him by a majority of the members; and they of course wish to stand by their pledges.

Lecompton, Dec. 17.—The following veto was received from Governor Stanton, in the evening session of the House:

To the House of Representatives of the Territory of Kansas:

GENTLEMEN: I herewith return the bill originating in your House, entitled "An act repealing an act, entitled 'An act to provide for taking a census, and election for delegates to a Convention.'"

In my communication to the two Houses, at the commencement of the present session of the Legislative Assembly, I distinctly stated my objections to the measure now presented for my approval.

Believing that the Legislative Assembly has no power to repeal the act for organizing the late Constitutional Convention, after its functions have been executed, I cannot approve the bill for that purpose, but now return it to the House in which it originated.

FRED. P. STANTON,
Acting Governor.

Lecompton, Dec. 16, 1857.

The bill was immediately passed over the veto. In the House the vote stood 29 to 1; in the Senate the vote for it was unanimous.

The Protesting Resolutions.

The subjoined message from the Governor was received at the same time with his veto:

LECOMPTON, *Dec.* 16, 1857.

To the House of Representatives of the Territory of Kansas:

GENTLEMEN: I have duly considered the "preamble and joint resolutions in relation to the Constitution framed at Lecompton, Kansas Territory, on the 7th day of November, 1857."

They do not constitute a law, in the proper sense of that term, and do not seem to me to require the approval of the Governor. I have no objection to the resolutions themselves, but there are some statements in the paeamble in which I do not concur.

As resolutions which merely express the opinions of the two Houses of the Legislative Assembly, I will very cheerfully communicate them to the President and Congress, as therein requested, but I decline to approve and sign them, for the reasons stated.

FREDERICK P. STANTON.
Acting Governor.

No action was taken on this communication.

A rumor that both Messrs. Walker and Stanton have been removed by the President was received from Lexington this morning, and has been generally accredited here through the day. It has caused little excitement, almost every one saying, "Just as I expected."

The Legislature will probably adjourn tomorrow morning. It only awaits Governor Stanton's approval of the act for submitting the Lecompton Constitution to the people on the first Monday in January. Mr. Stanton has stated that he shall sign it, but he is at his "claim," two or three miles out of town, this evening.

The President's message was not received here until to-night. Gov. Stanton immediately had that portion of it relating to Kansas affairs printed and circulated in the Legislature. During a recess of the House, a meeting was organized, and it was read aloud. Its sophistry and special pleading elicited [decided manifestations of disapprobation.]

Detailed Account of Walker's Surrender—Interesting Narrative.

We are indebted to the New York *Times* for the following, dated Aspinwall, December 19:

You heard by the Star of the West of the landing of General Walker and his men on the Point Arenas, directly under the guns of the Saratoga. I have now to announce to you his capture. Upon landing, he took possession of Scott's buildings, and also of a schooner lying at the wharf. Capt. Chatard, of the Saratoga, informed him that he must give up the schooner and evacuate the buildings, which he did, moving further up the Point, where he hired a few small buildings—huts, I may call them—and hoisted his flag there.

He assumed that Point Arenas was the headquarters of the army of Nicaragua; and upon one occasion when Lieut. Cilley of the Saratoga, in company with two other officers, landed on the Point, he was ordered to leave it. Cilley told him that he did not recognise his authority, but that if he repeated the order—having the power to enforce it—he would leave. He states that Walker threatened to shoot him if he came there again. On the 4th inst., forty-five of his men, under Colonel Anderson, who had previously gone up the river, captured two steamers and the Fort of Castillo. Thus far, all had gone well. He had command of the river, and only waited for his reinforcements to go up into the interior and carry all before him.

The Wabash arrived off Greytown on the 6th. The next day, Commodore Paulding hoisted his flag on the Fulton, and immediately set about his preparations to capture Walker and his men, whom he found encamped on Punta Arenas. It appears that the Commodore had received by the Fashion, before he sailed from Aspinwall, (which was on the afternoon of the 3d,) a most presumptuous letter from Walker, in which the writer styled himself "President of Nicaragua, and Commander in-chief of the Army of Nicaragua."

This letter complained bitterly against Capt. Chatard and his officers, for presuming to question his rights as sovereign of the country, &c., and among other things asserted, that when he threatened Lieutenant Cilley, of the Saratoga, that he would shoot him if he came near his headquarters, the lieutenant was without his uniform, and consequently he had no right to claim that he was a United States naval officer. In this letter Walker avowed his intention of asserting his right as President of Nicaragua, by force of arms, if necessary.

On the 18th, Commodore Paulding sent, through Captain Engle, of the Wabash, his reply. This reply was a model of brevity, but was couched in language so plain and pointed as admitted of only one interpretation, and invited no rejoinder. The Commodore bluntly disputed all his facts and premises, plainly telling him his expedition was an illegal and wicked one, and that he had come there to break it up. As regarded his threat to Lieutenant Cilley, he could only say he had the Lieutenant's authority for saying that he *was* in uniform; and it concerned Gen. Walker to know that any violence used by him to any officer of the squadron, would result in an act of retributive justice toward the offender.

The dispatch concluded by commanding General Walker to lay down his arms, and surrender himself and men to the United States naval forces.

Commodore Paulding had previously blockaded the mouth of the river San Juan, so that there was no chance of the escape of the filibusters. On the 9th, the broadside of the Saratoga was brought to bear on Gen. Walker's camp. Capt. Engle had the day before received his written orders as to the arming and disposition of the launches. He was directed to land, when he should be at a convenient distance from the shore, with small arms, and immediately to present the letter and summons above referred to. In case of resistance, he was directed to seize the principal officers first, using only just so much force as was necessary to accomplish his purpose.

Everything being ready, 100 marines from the Wabash, and 250 sailors from the Wabash and Saratoga, jumped into the launches, a tremendous sea making the feat very difficult of accomplishment—yet the utmost regularity and the most perfect discipline were observed throughout. The scene, with the many boats dancing on the waves, full of armed men, the launches with their twelve-pound howitzers, the three war ships of the United States, and the British line-of-battle-ship Brunswick in the harbor, was magnificent. The landing was effected without the slightest accident. There was no appearance of any contemplated resistance on the part of Walker. When Captain Engle stepped forward and presented his demand for the surrender, General W. replied at once—"Capt. Engle, *I am under your orders.*"

Some seventy men were immediately embarked on the Fulton and Saratoga—Walker on the former vessel. Some twenty or thirty more slid away into the bushes. Captain Engle at once placed a marine guard over the stores and munitions of war, and then sent out men to hunt up and bring in the missing filibusters. Notwithstanding the care used to secure the arms and stores, the straggling filibusters got a considerable quantity of them into the bush, and hid or buried them. Among the plunder of the camp, a few barrels or kegs of whisky had not been forgotten. "Jack" could find all sorts of things in the bush, but strange to say, he always reported "no whisky."

It was very amusing, however, to see "Jack" driving in his prisoners. Every little while, a sailor might be observed emerging from the thicket, pompously, with cutlass and pistol in hand driving before him a poor chopfallen filibuster, both as drunk as Julius Cæsar, from the influence of the whisky "Jack" could not find.

A "filibuster" correspondent of the *Herald* thus describes the scene on board the United States steamer Fulton, at Punta Arenas, when Walker, after his surrender, went on board:

I had preceded him, and was standing abaft the mizenmast when the General came over the rail. Every eye in all the crowd of officers, sailors, and marines, was strained to see the "gray-eyed man," and a thousand sympathies were expressed for his fortunes. Com. Paulding inquired of me if "that was the General?" and on being told it was, he politely removed his cap, and gracefully advancing, met the General half way between the gangway and cable, saying: "This is General Walker, I believe," at the same time extending his hand. "I am General Walker," responded the prisoner, and taking the Commodore's hand, both stood for a moment in suspense, the large and commanding form of the naval officer almost shading from sight the small but compact figure of the civilian and military chieftain.

The two took chairs to converse, when the General was so overcome by the great injustice of this sudden and appalling reverse that had thus stricken him down in his victorious career, that his eyes were red with tears. I have every reason to believe that the Commodore expressed a sympathy for his fortunes, but plead the inexorable calls of duty in extenuation of the step he had thus taken.

On the Northern Light coming to her dock in New York, Gen. Walker immediately proceeded on shore, and, accompanied by Captain Macdonald, took a carriage and proceeded to the house of Gen. Henningsen, 140 Twelfth street. The General is now in Washington, but his wife, who was about retiring for the night, received Gen. Walker, and tendered him the hospitalities of her house. Gen. Walker seems to be in excellent health and spirits, and is quite confident that the authorities at Washington will discountenance the action of Commodore Paulding, and set him at liberty to go where he pleases. He is determined to assert his claims as the President of Nicaragua, and he is confident that he cannot be long kept a prisoner. He denies that he violated the neutrality laws of the United States, and details the circumstances preceding and attendant upon his arrest as given above.

From Kansas.

St. Louis. Dec. 23.—The *Democrat* has news from Lecompton, that the Legislature passed an act submitting the Calhoun Constitution to a vote of the people of the Territory, on the 5th of January, in three forms: First—Constitution with Slavery. Second—Constitution without Slavery. Third—Against the Constitution.

Stringent measures have been adopted for watching the polls on the 21st, and committees appointed in each precinct to take the names of all the voters, so as to detect false returns. A good many Missourians are going over to vote.

An exciting affray occurred at Doniphan, in which a Free State man named Latham was murdered.

The report of Lane's death is false.

Acting-Governor Stanton has vetoed the militia and other obnoxious bills, which were not insisted on by a majority of the Legislature.

An express has recently arrived at Leavenworth, from the Utah expedition, which brings information that the whole force, with the exception of Col. Cook and his command, were concentrated at Black Fork, and were moving towards Fort Bridger. Their progress was slow, sometimes making only two or three miles a day. Hourly the animals were giving out, and it was thought that all would perish this winter. The supply trains were all with the military, and provisions were abundant. The report that two companies of infantry had met with reverses *en route* for Utah, is without foundation. Five companies of Col. Sumner's regiment of 1st cavalry have recently taken winter quarters at Fort Riley.

The *Democrat* has further advices from Kansas, stating that the Legislature has passed an act repealing the law authorizing a Constitutional Convention.

The militia law was passed over Gov. Stanton's veto.

Lane has been appointed major general, with eight brigadiers, an adjutant, and a full military organization.

St. Louis, Dec. 24.—The Missourians are said to be assembled in strong force along the border, and more fighting is apprehended.

The Territorial Executive Committee has issued a call for reassembling of the Delegate Convention held at Lawrence on the 2d inst., to take place on the 22d, for the purpose of considering the best course to pursue in consequence of the Legislature having failed to submit the Topeka Constitution along with the Lecompton Constitution to a vote of the people.

Cincinnati, Dec. 25.—The *Gazette* has advices from Kansas to the 17th. The Legislature had passed "An act repealing an act, entitled 'An act to provide for taking a census and election for delegates to a Convention,'" over the veto of Governor Stanton.

In the House the vote stood 29 to 1; in the Senate the vote for it was unanimous.

A rumor that both Messrs. Walker and Stanton have been removed by the President was received from Lexington on the 17th, and had been generally accredited at Lecompton through the day. It has caused little excitement, almost every one saying, "Just as I expected."

The *Gazette's* correspondent adds: "The President's message was not received at Lecompton until to-night. Governor Stanton immediately had that portion of it relating to Kansas affairs printed and circulated in the Legislature. During a recess of the House, a meeting was organized, and it was read aloud. It elicited hisses, groans, and many expressions of ridicule."

Later from Kansas—The Constitution with Slavery Carried.

St. Louis, Dec. 28.—Kansas advices to the 22d have been received. The Constitution with the Slavery provision has been carried by a large majority. The returns were meager. It was reported at Lawrence, that letters had been received by the Republicans, that a body of men had gone to Lecompton to seize the Territorial arms; also, that General Lane had gone to Fort Scott with the intention to destroy that place, and exterminate the Pro-Slavery settlers on the Shawnee reservation, and carry the war into Missouri.

Gen. Denver had assumed the Governorship, and issued an address, exhorting the people to appeal to the ballot box for the settlement of their difficulties.

It is stated, also, that President Calhoun, of the Constitutional Convention, has invited himself and the officers of the Legislature to be present at the counting of the returns.

There is nothing authentic from Fort Scott.

A bearer of dispatches from the acting Governor of Kansas passed through here yesterday for Washington. The poll was not opened at Lawrence.

The Lawrence Convention was to meet on the 23d, to decide whether to vote for State officers. Many favor such a course, with a view of crushing the State Government. Mr. Stanton is mentioned as a candidate for Governor.

Later from California.

New York, Dec. 27.—The steamer Northern Light, from Aspinwall, with California dates to the 5th instant, and $2,000,000 in specie, arrived here this evening, at ten o'clock.

The filibuster General Walker comes a passenger.

Fort Castillo and four steamers had been captured by Walker; but subsequently Walker and 150 men were captured by Commodore Paulding, of the frigate Wabash. The men were sent in the Saratoga to Norfolk, whilst Walker comes to New York on his parole. The lake and river steamers were handed over to the garrison.

Col. Anderson and fifty Americans still held Fort Castillo and the river San Juan. He had three months' provisions, six pieces of artillery, and an abundance of ammunition.

Captain Engle, of the Wabash, came bearer of dispatches to the Government.

The new steamer C. Morgan, seized by Com. Paulding, was put in charge of the American Consul at Greytown.

There had been heavy rains in California, reviving trade, and imparting new vigor to the mining operations. Six hundred Chinese have left for home.

The markets were quiet at San Francisco. Money was in active demand.

A force of only fifty men captured Walker and his army!

Martinez has been elected President of Nicaragua, and was making active preparations for an energetic war on Costa Rica. The latter had sent 400 men against Col. Anderson.

The revolution in Bolivia has been successful. The Chincha Islands are in the power of Vivanco.

Minnesota.

Gov. Medary, in his message, favors the building up such a system of common schools as shall extend the blessing of education to all parts of the future State; trusts the University will receive the fostering attention of the Legislature; suggests a geological survey of the State at an early day, and that measures should be taken to establish its boundaries from the outlet of Big Stone Lake to the northern boundary of Iowa. The Governor avows himself in favor of a hard-money currency, but is willing to take paper for the present, under proper restrictions.

Illinois.

The mass meeting called by the Democratic Association in Chicago on the 19th instant, (the *Times* says,) was one of the largest and most enthusiastic assemblages ever held in that city. At an early hour the Democratic Hall was crowded, and it was found necessary to adjourn the meeting to the Light Guard Hall. The following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That the people of each Territory should be left free to form and regulate all of their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the Constitution of the United States; that we adhere to and maintain this principle of the Democratic party, as set forth in the Kansas-Nebraska bill and in the Cincinnati platform; and that a fair and honest practical application of this principle imperatively required that the Lecompton Constitution—and the whole of it—should have been submitted to the people of Kansas for their approval or disapproval.

Resolved, That it would be an entire departure from the well-established principles of the Democratic party, for the Congress of the United States, under the forms of legislation, to force upon Kansas any Constitution not having the approval of a majority of the people of that Territory.

Resolved, That we fully concur in the sentiments expressed by the Hon. Stephen A. Douglas upon this subject, in his late speech in the United States Senate; that they are in entire accordance with the frequently-avowed and solemnly-declared principles of the Democratic party of the Union, and that we will, at all times and under all circumstances, maintain and defend them.

Resolved, That we have unabated confidence in the integrity, wisdom, and patriotism, of the National Administration, and we confidently believe that the foregoing principles of the Democratic party will be fairly and faithfully applied in the admission of Kansas into the Union.

Instructions to Secretary Denver. Acting Governor of Kansas.

WASHINGTON, *Dec.* 23, 1857.

The President, in response to a call of the Senate, to-day sent a large mass of documents on Kansas affairs—among them the following:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 11, 1857.

James W. Denver, Esq., Secretary and Acting Governor of Kansas Territory:

SIR: You have already been informed that Mr. Stanton has been removed from the office of Secretary of the Territory of Kansas, and that you have been appointed in his place. I desire now to state to you distinctly the reason of this change. The Convention which met at Lecompton on the 1st of September had framed a Constitution, and had authorized its President to submit the question to the people of Kansas on the 21st of December, whether this Constitution should be adopted with or without Slavery. The importance of the issue could not well be over-estimated. It involved the complete and authoritative settlement of the only subject of difference which had seriously agitated Kansas or interfered with its prosperity. The qualified electors, therefore, to whom this settlement was referred, not only had unquestionable right to attend at the polls and give their votes on the day appointed, but they were required to do so by the highest considerations of public duty. In the exercise of this right, moreover, they were entitled to adequate protection by the Territorial Government, and the acting Governor was bound to employ all legal means at his command to give security and fairness to the election. With the conflicting opinions which prevailed in the Territory on the question submitted, he had no right to interfere. They had their appropriate issue at the ballot-box, and to that peaceful arbitrament they might safely be referred. The great objects to be accomplished, in the opinion of the President, were to preserve the peace of the Territory and secure freedom in the election. Entertaining these views, he was surprised to learn that the Secretary and Acting Governor had, on the first of December, issued his proclamation for a special session of the Territorial Legislature on the 7th instant, only a few weeks in advance of its regular time of meeting, and only fourteen days before a decision was to be made on the question submitted by the Convention. The course of Mr. Stanton the President seriously believes has thrown a new element of discord among the excited people of Kansas, and it is directly at war, therefore, with the peaceful policy of the Administration.

For this reason, he has felt it his duty to remove him.

From these views you will readily understand what the President regards as the chief duty which devolves upon you as Mr. Stanton's successor. This duty is to preserve peace in Kansas. Every person entitled to vote on the Constitution ought to have safe access to the polls, and to be free from any restraints whatever in the exercise of the elective franchise.

If the civil power is found insufficient for this purpose, the troops of the United States should be employed in aid of it, and it may be a wise precaution to have them stationed, in advance, within reach of those places where, in your judgment, their services are likely to be required. It is earnestly hoped that the use of the military power may be wholly avoided. Violence is always less likely to occur when the means are known to be at hand for its prompt suppression. Should the military force become absolutely necessary to keep the peace, you will find full instructions with reference to the proper mode of applying it in my communications to Governor Walker, of March 28, July 25, and Sept. 2, 1857, and in those subsequently written to Mr. Stanton. Of these last, that of Nov. 30 was taken to Kansas by you, and you had a copy of it. All of them will doubtles be found in the archives of the Governor at Lecompton. They refer prominently to the preservation of the peace at certain important elections—but I need hardly inform you that your duty is not intended to be confined to those special occasions. It extends, of course, to the protection of all citizens in the exercise of their just rights, and applies to one legal election as well as to another. The Territorial Legislature doubtless convened on the 7th instant, and while it remains in session its members are entitled to be secure and free in their deliberations. Its rightful action must also be respected. Should it authorize an election by the people for any purpose, this election should be held without interruption, no less than those authorized by the Convention. While the peace of the Territory is preserved, and freedom of election is secured, there need be no disastrous consequences.

The public journals contain reports of an intended movement by a portion of the residents of Kansas, to organize a revolutionary Government under the Topeka Constitution. It is hardly probable that this report can be well founded; but should the attempt be made, and lead to practical collision with the Territorial authorities, the authority of the Government must necessarily be maintained; and from whatever quarter it is attempted to interfere by violence with the election authorized by the Constitutional Convention, or which may be authorized by the Legislature, the attempt must be resisted, and the security of the elections maintained.

The peaceful progress of these elections can obviously occasion no injury to any citizen of any party, because their results can have only their due weight under the Constitution and laws. It is to be expected, therefore, that no good citizens will endeavor to interfere with them, but that all the people will be contented to see the work of the Convention peacefully carried out to its legitimate results, and fairly presented to the consideration of Congress.

The President relies upon your firmness and discretion to give effect to these instructions. It is vitally important that the people of Kansas, and none other than the people of Kansas, should have the full determination of the question now before them for decision. It is important, also, that in securing to them the protection to which they are entitled, great care should be taken not to organize any illegal authority. On this point I again refer you to my instructions to Governor Walker and Secretary Stanton, which you will regard as directed to yourself.

It is proper to add, that no action of the Territorial Legislature about to meet can interfere with the elections of the 21st of December and 26th of January, in the mode and manner prescribed by the Constitutional Covention.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,
LEWIS CASS, *Secretary.*

From Mexico.

New Orleans, Dec. 25.—By the arrival at this port to-day of the steamer Tennessee, the *Picayune* is in receipt of intelligence from Vera Cruz to the 21st instant, and corresponding dates from other portions of the Republic. The news is of the highest importance.

The Constitution of the country had been overthrown, the Federal Congress and Supreme Court broken up and dispersed, and Comonfort declared absolute dictator, with power to call an extraordinary Congress. The whole Capital was in arms, and other Municipalities, including Vera Cruz, had given in their prompt adhesion to the new order of things.

The revolution in the city of Mexico took place on the 17th instant. The movement was a sudden, bold, and daring one, and crowned with the most complete success. It was planned by Comonfort, and then intrusted to Gen. Paez, who carried it triumphantly into execution, without any active resistance on the part of the people. Indeed, the latter evinced their joy in various ways, and unhesitatingly hailed Comonfort as their supreme ruler.

There were but few arrests made, though among the few were several men of distinction.

A number of the Ministry sent in their resignation the same day.

The latest advices from the city are contained in a letter to the *Picayune,* dated 19th instant, which represents that "everything is going on well."

Later advices from Yucatan are also furnished. The country still continued distracted by civil war.

Sisal, which at previous dates was in possession of the Campeachy troops and in a state of blockade, had been captured by the Reactionists, but was again retaken by the former, and a strong force of good troops were stationed at that point, to defend it from further assaults.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

A correspondent of the Raleigh *Standard* says: "Of our North Carolina delegation much is expected. The Senators are men good and true; from the previous experience and bearing of the members of the House, they will, if they do their duty, make their mark."

This we can confidently say—our members will make their mark, if they do what a majority of their constituents are compelled to do whenever they sign.—*Fayetteville (N. C.) Observer.*

An action of debt by a wife against her husband, to recover money loaned by her to her husband, being property acquired after her marriage, was tried in the Court of Common Pleas of Perry Co., Pa., a few days ago, Judge Graham presiding. The question was, whether a wife could maintain suit against her husband. The court decided that she could, and directed a verdict for the plaintiff of $2,508.—*Milwaukee Free Democrat.*

A London paper says that Messrs. Longman, having taken the advice of the highest authorities of the present day upon questions relating to the English language and literature, have signified their intention of having the word "telegram" henceforth inserted in all dictionaries published by them, and that it will accordingly appear as a recognised word in the forthcoming edition of Johnson's Dictionary, which is to be published under the superintendence of Dr. Latham.

The correspondence which took place a year ago in reference to the bombardment of Greytown, has been transmitted by the President to the Senate, in accordance with their request. On behalf of the French residents at Greytown, the French Minister, Count de Sartiges, represents that it was impossible that their goods could be removed from the effect of the cannonading by the Cyane. In reply is Mr. Marcy's letter, expressing an inability to perceive any propriety in the request for the payment of indemnity. Of this the Count acknowledges the receipt, and states that Mr. Marcy's communication shall be sent to the French Government. Here endeth the correspondence with Count de Sartiges; but none was produced that had passed between Mr. Marcy and the British Minister, although the resolution of the Senate demanded *all* that had passed.

James Buchanan's Administration will be noted, hereafter, for its general inconsistencies. Without alluding to its desertion of the doctrine of popular sovereignty under which it was elected, we have but to state, as initiatory to a series of inconsistencies, the fact that, after the most violent tirade in the message against banks, irredeemable bank notes, and paper money generally, the very first demand of the Administration is, the issue of irredeemable paper promises to pay, in the shape of Treasury notes. This act is called for by a hard-money Administration, and is passed by hard-money Democrats, while at the same time the Administration and the Democrats are declaring against the emission of *paper* money.

The day after Douglas made his speech, a Democrat said to Mr. Banks, "Are you going to take Douglas in?" "Yes, sir," replied the little Iron Man, "we will take in all who want to come—the church is large and the door is wide." "Very well," rejoined the Democrat, "but are you willing to make him your leader?" "We are willing, after they all get in," replied Banks, "to let the smartest man lead the column."

The vote in Wisconsin, upon the proposition to extend negro suffrage, was—yeas, 28,235; nays, 41,345. Majority against, 13,110.

It appears from the Wisconsin State Directory for 1857 that there are in the State ten railroads in full operation, covering a distance of 1,888 miles, the gross receipts of the same being $15,000,000. The merchandise imports reached $28,000,000. There are eighty-six banks in the State, seventy-four doing business under the general banking law, with an aggregate capital of $5,815,000. The total amount of circulation issued by such banks is $3,133,501, and securities are assigned in trust to the State treasurer to the amount of $11,000,638. The aggregate of specie on deposit is $50,488.15. There are 2,381 common schools in the State, attended by over 60,000 children. The colleges number twenty. There are one hundred and sixty five newspapers published, being an increase of over one hundred during the past two years, and a good portion of them are German.

The report, often proved to be fallacious, that the Emperor of Japan is about to change its exclusive for a liberal commercial policy, is revived, and upon the authority of a conversation with the Russian admiral, Count Pontiatine, who had recently visited Nagasaki. This gentleman not long since negotiated a treaty between Japan and Russia, and upon terms similar to the treaties with the United States and England—that is, with no commercial privileges at all. From another source we learned, not long ago, the Emperor of Japan had held a consultation with his Court upon the subject of intercourse with foreigners, and that it had been determined to grant to all nations, without any more special treaties, the privilege merely of taking shelter in certain ports from stress of weather, and supplying themselves with provisions and water. This is the extent of the privileges granted by Japan, either to England, Russia, the United States, or to any other nation except Holland, which nation, by virtue of extreme humility, is allowed the use of a port, and the privilege of a trifling and limited trade can fined to one ship a year.

Buffalo, Dec. 25.—The variety store of Henry Hart, No. 171 Main street, was destroyed by fire this morning, together with a stock valued at $20,000. Insured for $10,000. The building was owned by William A. Sutton, valued at $10,000, and insured at $2,800. The stock of H. Stillman, dealer in hats, caps, and furs, the next door south, was damaged by water to the amount of $6,000; insured for $4,000. The stock of Tweedy & Smith, hat, cap, and fur dealers, the next door north of Mr. Hart's, was also damaged by water to the amount of $2,000; loss covered by insurance.

It has been decided that the steamship Leviathan, if she ever gets launched, shall make three voyages to Portland, Maine; and, if her trips are found to pay, she will be permanently fixed upon the berth between Holyhead and that port. She has been gradually moved between forty and fifty feet towards the water.

A sale of confiscated jewelry, by the United States, took place at New York on Saturday. A sapphire and diamond bracelet, with ear-rings, brought $1,700. Two diamonds brought $780; another diamond, $900; another, $1,400, bought by a Mr. Turnbull; one ruby, $255; one gold cross, $385; another went for $325. The "times" must be getting easier in the "commercial emporium."

The Milwaukie and Mississippi Railroad earned about $80,000 in November, and will earn $45,000 in December. The floating debt has been reduced to $70,000, but there is $30,000 more due on coupons. By ninety days, the road expects to be clear of floating debts.

The Pittsburgh and Connelsville Railroad have notified Pittsburgh that they cannot pay their interest, which falls due on the first of January. Pittsburgh is liable for $500,000.

We learn from the South that a heavy fall of snow prevailed over a considerable extent of the South, bearing from the southwest. A gentleman from Wilmington, N. C., states that it commenced at that city on Friday morning, and was falling heavily in Virginia as he passed through that State. In some places it was on a level of from twelve to fifteen inches deep. It commenced snowing here on Saturday morning, but only fell in sufficient depth to whiten the ground.

We learn that the War Department received on Saturday information by telegraph from Lieut. General Scott, announcing his receipt of favorable intelligence from the Utah expedition. On the 7th of November, Colonels Johnson and Smith, and the trains, had overtaken Col. Alexander, and all were marching upon Fort Bridger, distant only sixteen miles. The troops were in fine spirits, and there was just enough snow upon the plains to protect the grass from fire. Fort Bridger, it is understood, is 113 miles from Great Salt Lake city.

Robert J. Walker, late Governor of Kansas, was born in 1801, and is therefore fifty-six years old. His native place was Northumberland, Pennsylvania. His father had served in the Revolutionary war, and had held several high offices in that State. Robert J. Walker graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1819, and was admitted to the bar at Pittsburg in 1821. He was a prominent actor in the campaign of 1824, in favor of General Jackson as President. He moved to Mississippi in 1826, where he still continued a supporter of Gen. Jackson. He was elected Senator from that State in 1836. In 1845, he was appointed, by President Polk, Secretary of the Treasury. Since that time, he has been a manager of the great Pacific Railroad scheme, and numerous land and railroad speculations. Says an exchange: "In person, Mr. Walker is a small, bald-headed, bustling little man, with large self-esteem, sharp eyes, and nervous temperament. He is a ready writer, and, with his uncommon energy and elasticity of mind and body, is calculated to pass in the world for all he is worth."

MARRIAGE.

Married on Tuesday, December 1, at the residence of John Woodruff, Esq., by the Rev. D. Read, Mr. JAMES BUCKLAND, of St. Louis, and Miss GEORGIANA CUSHMAN, late of California.

At the same time and place, by the same, Mr. JOSEPH A. BUCKLAND and Miss PAMELIA D. WOODRUFF, both of St. Louis.

DEATH.

Died, November 13, at his residence near Tenleyville, Washington county, Pennsylvania, EDWARD CAMPBELL, sr., aged 75 years.

MARKETS.

BALTIMORE MARKET.

Carefully prepared to Tuesday, December 29, 1857.

Flour, Howard Street	$4.75	@ 0.00
Flour, City Mills	4.50	@ 0.00
Rye Flour	3.75	@ 0.00
Corn Meal	3.37	@ 3.50
Wheat, white	1.05	@ 1.10
Wheat, red	1.02	@ 1.05
Corn, white	45	@ 48
Corn, yellow	48	@ 52
Rye, Pennsylvania	75	@ 78
Rye, Virginia	60	@ 65
Oats, Maryland and Virginia	30	@ 33
Oats, Pennsylvania	35	@ 36
Clover Seed	5.50	@ 5.75
Timothy Seed	2.25	@ 2.50
Hay, Timothy	15.00	@20.00
Hops	7	@ 14
Potatoes, Mercer	1.30	@ 1.40
Bacon, Shoulders	9½	@ 00
Bacon, Sides	9½	@ 9¾
Bacon, Hams	12	@ 12½
Pork, Mess	21.50	@22.00
Pork, Prime	17.00	@17.50
Beef, Mess	19.50	@20.00
Lard, in barrels	12	@ 00
Lard, in kegs	00	@ 00
Wool, Unwashed	00	@ 00
Wool, Washed	00	@ 00
Wool, Pulled	00	@ 00
Wool, Fleece, common	00	@ 00
Wool, Fleece, fine	00	@ 00
Wool, Choice Merino	00	@ 00
Butter, Western, in kegs	12½	@ 14
Butter, Roll	18	@ 22
Cheese	9¼	@ 10
Coffee, Rio	9¼	@ 9½
Coffee, Java	16	@ 17

NEW YORK MARKET.

Carefully prepared to Tuesday, December 29, 1857

Flour, State brands	$4 25	@ 4.35
Flour, State brands, extra	4.50	@ 4.70
Flour, Western	4.25	@ 4 35
Flour, Southern	4.75	@ 5.00
Rye Flour	3.00	@ 4.00
Corn Meal	3.20	@ 3.50
Wheat, white	1.10	@ 1.20
Wheat, red	1.15	@ 0.00
Corn, white	58	@ 60
Corn, yellow	00	@ 00
Rye	70	@ 72
Oats	41	@ 46
Clover Seed	8.50	@ 8 75
Timothy Seed	2.00	@ 2 25
Hay	55	@ 65
Hops	5	@ 8
Bacon, Shoulders	6	@ 6½
Bacon, Sides	10	@ 00
Bacon, Hams	8	@ 8½
Pork, Mess	15.50	@15.62
Pork, Prime	13.25	@13.50
Beef	8.00	@10.00
Lard, in barrels	9	@ 9½
Lard, in kegs	11	@ 00
Butter, Western	11	@ 16
Butter, State	14	@ 20
Cheese	6	@ 8½
Coffee, Rio	9½	@ 10½
Coffee, Java	15½	@ 16
Wool, Unwashed	00	@ 00
Wool, Washed	00	@ 00
Wool, Pulled	00	@ 00
Wool, Fleece, common	00	@ 00
Wool, Fleece, fine	00	@ 00
Iron, Scotch, Pig	28.00	@28.50
Lime, Rockland	1.00	@ 0.00
Lime, common	80	@ 00

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